From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@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.

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: 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

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

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

Latin America

Commentary: Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro agronomist Maria Thereza Pedroso 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

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 heme be formally approved as a color additive

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 22-26, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science publishes talk by Nigerian farmer Chibuike 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

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

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 disillusions 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.

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 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

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

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

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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To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 18, 2018
Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 9:01:42 PM

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**).

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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

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

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

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 (Fedeagro) 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 surgane 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 Joaquan 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

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

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

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

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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
!Que 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

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Date: Sunday, December 16, 2018 9:26:16 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

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

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

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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Date: Thursday, December 13, 2018 9 01:24 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database | Events calendar | Bonus Eventus community

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 12, 2018
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:01:56 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 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

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

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

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

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 - Dec. 11, 2018
Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 9:04:33 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 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

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

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

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 10, 2018
Date: Monday, December 10, 2018 9 02:48 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

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

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

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

Latin America

News release: Argentinian organizations Tching Community of the Comechingón 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.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@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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Please contact us if you have any questions.

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 ott "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

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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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

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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

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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 ott "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

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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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

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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**

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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

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 geoengineering, co-hosts include La Via Campesina and ETC Group

More Africa items

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 issues 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

More Asia items

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

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

Oceania

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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

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"

More North America items

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

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

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

Latin America

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

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 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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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 AndrÃ© 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

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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 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

More North America items

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

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

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 Lipparini 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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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 3, 2018
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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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

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

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

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

Events calendar

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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 ott.

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: "Fartetched" 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: Smirnott 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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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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

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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

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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 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

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

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

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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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

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 â€˜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

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

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

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 28, 2018
Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 9 03:51 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 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

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

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

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: Agribusiness, 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 Hirshberg says non-organic dairy farmers will fail due to high costs, low price for milk; Hirshberg 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 skews towards worst-case scenario

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 27, 2018
Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 9:03:40 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 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**

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: 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

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

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

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

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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Stakeholder database

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 22-26, 2018
Date: Monday, November 26, 2018 9:04:31 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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Biodversidad 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

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 Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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Events calendar

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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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Farm to Table Talk: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine discusses phobias about chemicals in food supply

CLICK FOR 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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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.

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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

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

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

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Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 9:00 59 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a 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**

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.

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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

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

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

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

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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**

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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

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

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

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

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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

Events calendar

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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 American 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 Nefflix 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 newsleffer, 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 Spliffer: 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 Cornucopia 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?

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

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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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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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

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

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

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 agribusinesses

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**
- *Clarin* 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

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

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

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

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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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**

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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 Diversty, 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 om 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

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

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

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

"sustainable management"

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 Movemetn 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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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

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

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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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 upcomning 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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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

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

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

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

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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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In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
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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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 9-11, 2018
Date: Sunday, November 11, 2018 9:00:21 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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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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 agrichemical 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

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

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

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

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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Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018 9:03:29 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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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 Musveni'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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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

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports MPs change biosafety bill to adapt to President Musveni'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 Onyaole 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

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

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

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 7, 2018
Date: Wednesday, November 7, 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 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 that 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

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

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 tops

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

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

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: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 9 01:16 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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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

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

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

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 5, 2018
Date: Monday, November 5, 2018 9:05:12 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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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

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

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

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

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@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"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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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, Wiegel 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

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

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

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 (UTT), 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 Bekkem of Greenpeace Netherlandscan said CRISPR technique can lead to unpredictable side effects 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

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

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

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

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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Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 9 03:15 PM

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 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 enteringinto 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

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

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

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 Matin 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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from 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 response 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

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

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

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

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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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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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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

Malt 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

Carn Dahl: Embrace modern agriculture because "good old days were not very good for those living in them"

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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

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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

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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

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

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

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

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 â€œdescended into nonsense

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 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

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Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 9 04:12 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 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

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

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

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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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 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

More North America items

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

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: Philipinne newspaper reports national agricultural research agency, Philipinne, 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

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

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

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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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

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

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

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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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 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 goverment 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 12st 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 geoengineering

News: Mexico's Animal Politico reports on report by U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, 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 A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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 Cohrssen 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

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

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

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

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

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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 (CCAE) in which the groups re-emphasized their objections to the proposed released 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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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 CCAE 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 (CCAE) 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 sentization 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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Rubén Torres writes for La Jornada Maya, examining challenges ahead for new head of National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), María Elena Álvarez-Buylla, foresees clash with another cabinet member, Alfonso Romo, who supports GM crops

News: Mexico's Diario Plaza Juarez reports on controversy surrounding newly appointed head of National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), María Elena Álvarez-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

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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.

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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: 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
Borlaug Dialogues	FAO Committee on World Food Security 45th meeting	Norway Bioteknologirådet open meeting on GMOs in Africa
October 16-17	**October 16-20**	**October 18**
French agricultural research institute colloquium on chlordecone	2nd Biotechnology World Symposium	Bayer dialogue on plant breeding innovation

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 12-14, 2018
Date: Sunday, October 14, 2018 9:00:34 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 Appraisal Committee requesting data on Bangladesh's commercial release of Bt eggplant. French anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM 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 Inf'OGM 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. Inf'OGM 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 Kathen to speak on genetic engineering, will explain historical context, and genetic engineering's scientific and technical background

More Africa items

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

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

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 11, 2018
Date: Thursday, October 11, 2018 9:01:38 PM

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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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 glyposate 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

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

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

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

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

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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 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

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

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

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

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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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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

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 (PFAG) statement voicing disappointment in National Biosafety Authority's handling of GMOs, PFAG argues adopting GMOs runs counter to Ghana's goal of eliminating need for foreign aid

Commentary: Thorah-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

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

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), María Elena Álvarez-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 Álvarez 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 Rondônia, 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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Stakeholder database

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 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 reneging 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**

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: 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 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

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 Inf'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

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

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: Suddeutsche 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 polices, 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

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

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
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.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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 frouble, 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 imporfed organic produce

Brian Lovett: Non-GMO Project Verified bufterfly logo is a marketing ploy "exacerbating fears with nonsensical labeling"

Jason Lusk: Recent paper on social pressure consumers feel to buy organic suggests a porfion 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

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Date: Sunday, October 7, 2018 9 03:42 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

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 CANSA reported Luca Coscione 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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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

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

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

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

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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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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

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

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

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

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 3, 2018
Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 9:04:25 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 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**

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 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

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 Farrmers 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

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

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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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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 2, 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 9 00:41 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 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**

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North America

News: Wall Street Journal reports U.S. farmers and other ag stakeholders welcome new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, David Salmonsen 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

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

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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Stakeholder database

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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

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 Fogio 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

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 Wold 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 Huajuapan, Guillermo Cirigo Villagómez, blamed transgenic maize for loss of native varieties and rise in diseases like cancer

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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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.

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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"

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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 cratting 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
Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: USA	16 days of global action on agroecology	Austria GMO-free weeks
October 2	**October 4-6**	**October 7-8**
French roundtable on societal health impacts of endocrine disruptors	International Biodiversity Congress	Regeneration International annual meeting

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and

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news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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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 Krimsky 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

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

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 itâ€™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

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 'Xíimbal 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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 21-23, 2018
Date: Sunday, September 23, 2018 11:11:27 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 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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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

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

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

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

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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Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:00:25 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included reports 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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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

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

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

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 (IFSF), 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 disbilities

Commentary: French news site reports Bangladesh agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change, so government promotes private company investment, GMOs such as Bt egglplant, 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

successful

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 GE-Free NZ lobbying for government to pull out of FSANZ 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

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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 Ghanian 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

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

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

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)

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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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 Havard 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

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

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

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

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

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.

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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

Bransdford 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"

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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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 14-16, 2018
Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018 9:03:26 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 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: Europeanseed 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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Date: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:01:41 PM

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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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

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

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 CientÃficas, 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

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

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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

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

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

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 Coscione 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

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 Totonicapán 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 Totonicapan 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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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 11, 2018
Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 9:01:37 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from 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 Gingko Bioworks' chief commercial officer about fast-growing field

Commentary: Medium contributor cites passing of Argentine anti-pesticide activist FabiÃin 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 10, 2018
Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 5:57:36 PM

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 Benshosan: 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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 7-9, 2018
Date: Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:14:18 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 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

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

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

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

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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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

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

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

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

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

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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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 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**

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: 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

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

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

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 Boll 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

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

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

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

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

Europe

News release: Swissaid issues statement opposing ETH Zurich's trials of GM cassava in Nigeria, Swissaid's Judiss 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

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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

Events calendar

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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 Arnason: 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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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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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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.

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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

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

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

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

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included reports on debates regarding proposed changes to Argentina's seed law. World Food Prize officials announced the winner of the Norman Borlaug Award.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

not science-based

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America duing 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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Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:00:50 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

- European news outlets *Novethic* and *European Scientist* published commentary reviewing the implications of the EU court's decision regulating NBTs. *Novethic* editorial writer Marina Fabre said the decision stymied seed company ambitions and called for the European Commission to solidify laws on the techniques. In a contrary opinion, *European Scientist*'s editor-in-chief highlighted renewed activity from the anti-biotechnology group Faucheurs Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) and said the court's decision blocked crucial science and encouraged a new round of anti-GMO debate. **See more**

- U.S. media outlets also published commentary on the decision. *Investor's Business Daily* carried commentary from researchers Henry I. Miller and Drew Kershen criticizing the legal framework for the EU court's decision and noting the potential negative consequences. Genetic Literacy Project contributor Andrew Porterfield, meanwhile, highlighted how gene-edited crops could benefit the environment by reducing food waste. An editorial in *Bloomberg* criticized the European approach to NBTs, adding that U.S. regulations were equally unsatisfactory, and called for a product-based regulatory assessment. **See more**

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environment project

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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Date: Monday, August 27, 2018 4:11:33 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

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

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

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

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

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Environmental Working Group

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

Stories Worth Sharing

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

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

Ed White: Canadian regulators rushing to ban neonics based on "weak and partial" data

Jennie Schmidt: Perceptions that GMO agriculture overuses pesticides and organic farming uses none both wrong

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

Carrie Vollmer Sanders: Not all food labels are created equal

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

Stephan Neidenbach: Anti-GMO movement can't decide what qualifies as a GMO

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

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

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

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Environmental Working Group.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Michele Payn: "Food bullying has become ridiculous" with misleading labels used only to make products more attractive

Erik Frykberg: Industry group estimates New Zealand neonic ban would result in $1.2B in farm production losses

Henry Miller: Non-GMO Project labels just another variation on selling snake oil

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

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

Switzerland Federal Council rejects initiative to outlaw synthetic pesticides

Canadian plan to phase out neonics brings questions about what farmers will use instead

Following destruction of GM sunflower field, Volunteer Reapers host general assembly and block French factory entrance

Calendar highlights

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

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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:

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

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

North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

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

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 news that Bolivian agricultural producers were launching a 60-day consultation on transgenic crop adoption in the country.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

News release: University of Queensland researchers develop technology for disease-resistant plants, including virus-resistant technology that can respond quickly to emerging viral threats in plants; secures investor backing for start-up comapany Nexgen 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 recommendations from Japan's Ministry of the Environment that products of gene editing not be regulated as GMOs. India's food safety agency announced it would delay proposed regulations on food labeling.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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 an announcement from Germany's Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL) that an herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape variety was subject to GMO regulations. Swiss activists urged supporters to vote on a constitutional amendment promoting "food sovereignty."

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

should be considered and reported by applicants

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

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

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

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

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

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: Testbiotech

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

Stories Worth Sharing

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

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

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

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

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

GLYPHOSATE CANCER VERDICT RESPONSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Testbiotech.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Carol Lynn Curchoe: Activists bring back tainted food claims dismissed by scientists

Michelle Miller: Similarities of anti-GMO and anti-meat activists go beyond use of fear for profit

Nina Fedoroff: Untangling "regulatory thicket" for biotechnology will allow scientists to solve agricultural problems

Reaz Ahmad: Bangladeshi farmers quickly adopting Bt brinjal, saving money by reducing pesticide usage

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Environmenal Working Group seeks to capitalize on glyphosate headlines by claiming cereals are contaminated

Canadian government to phase out most uses of neonics thiamethoxam and clothianidin within three to five years

Nigerian court throws out lawsuit seeking to block GM crop field trials

U.K. study concludes sulfoxaflor interteres with bumblebee reproduction, deems it unsafe alternative to neonics

Columbia University study of pregnant women in Finland finds DDT exposure may increase autism risk for children

Calendar highlights

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

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 17-19, 2018
Date: Sunday, August 19, 2018 9:02:44 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 a Pew Research Center poll on Americans' views on genetic engineering use. A Bangladesh news site reported more than 27,000 farmers are cultivating Bt eggplant this year, nearly 20 percent of the nation's farmers.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

Annan who said biotech must be developed prudently

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 16, 2018
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:03:15 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 media report the German federal government seeks to pay anti-biotech NGO lobbyist to influence public opinion on new breeding techniques. Bayer announced its conditions have been fulfilled to begin incorporating Monsanto. In France, vandals destroyed another field of herbicide-tolerant sunflowers, this time citing the recent glyphosate cancer lawsuit.

- German newspaper *Suddeutsche Zeitung* reported Germany's Ministry of the Environment will pay anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech's Christoph Then more than 200,000 euros by 2020 to manage a project to influence public opinion on gene editing methods. The rest of the project's advisory board includes other NGOs and environmental groups critical of biotechnology, but it includes no scientists. The project's stated goal is to scientifically evaluate gene editing methods for environmental protection and convey that information to the the public. Germany's Free Democratic Party questioned the expenditure and the supposed independence of Then's group. **See more**

- A Bayer news release indicated the company has completed asset sales to BASF, satisfying antitrust conditions and clearing the way to begin incorporating Monsanto. The release also noted the company can become involved in glyphosate defense efforts and believes courts will find that Monsanto is not responsible for Dewayne Johnson's cancer. **See more**

- French news sites reported that 50 to 80 Volunteer Reapers destroyed two hectares of herbicide-tolerant sunflower seeds at about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday in Druelle, France. A communique from the group indicated the plants were genetically modified and were "poisoning the Earth." A RAGT Aveyron official said the vandalism goes beyond financial loss and "is hampering the competitiveness of French research." **See more**

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and

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Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9 02 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

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that a Nigerian court had ruled against activists who sought to bar GM crop approvals.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

pledges to continue fighting

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

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 14, 2018
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:03:02 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from Nigerian activists criticizing recent GM crop approvals. In India, controversy over GM food imports continued.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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

Events calendar

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Try it free today

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

Welcome!

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

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

Register Now

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

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

Knowledge is Power

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

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

ISSUES MONITORING PORTAL

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

NETWORKING

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

CALENDAR

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

Please let us know if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you!

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 13, 2018
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 9:04:50 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from India's top food safety regulator addressing criticism of GM food import monitoring.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

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

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

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

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Bioscience Resource Project

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

Stories Worth Sharing

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

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

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

Cathy Siegner: Miller's Wall Street Journal article shines light on lack of consumer education about labeling

Science 2.0: U.S. Congress withholds funding for International Agency for Research on Cancer due to glyphosate controversy

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

Mulaa Francis Jakim: "Critical gaps" preventing actualization of beneficial biotechnology applications in Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

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

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

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

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

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

U.S. appellate court rules EPA must ban chlorpyrifos

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

Calendar highlights

August 15-16	August 18	August 19-24
"Ag Technology & The Law" conference hosted by National Agricultural Law Center and National Association of Attorneys General	Inspiring Australia speaking series: "From Genes to GMOs"	International Association for Plant Biotechnology Congress

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 13, 2018
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 4 07:58 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

- The Hill reported FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb promised earlier in the week on Twitter to do more to help consumers "make sense of food labels." Media outlets surmised the tweet was in response to an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal in which former FDA official Henry Miller said the agency has been lax regarding non-GMO and pesticide-free claims. Attorney and Georgetown University law professor C. Dean McGrath, Jr. said the FDA and Federal Trade Commission must stop organic food industry lies about GM food. A Center for Food Safety news release called Miller a "propagandist" for the pesticide industry and said pesticides are found on conventional foods four times more frequently than organic foods. **See more**

- A Chinese insurance journal reported a Lloyd's of London and Imperial College study indicates insurers should develop risk management strategies to support synthetic biotechnology research for crop protection and disease prevention. **See more**

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

products, but products still must win over consumers

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

More Oceania items

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To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - August 9, 2018
Date: Thursday, August 9, 2018 9 01:10 PM

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - August 8, 2018
Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 9:00:56 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 preliminary report from Food Standards Australia New Zealand, summarizing responses on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Response to the European Court of Justice's decision on NBTs also continued.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

technology to agriculture

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

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

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

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - August 7, 2018
Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 9 04:46 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 U.S. had found no safety concerns with a Brazilian GM sugarcane. Indian activists continued their campaign for GM food labeling, while agriculture officials reported the destructive armyworm pest had been discovered in the region.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

regulation sides with beef, pork, poultry industries

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, August 6, 2018 9 01:29 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 EU media reports on local reaction to U.S. proposals on soybean trade. Indian activists continued a media pressure campaign on GMO labeling.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Universität Hannover sees the ruling as an "affront to science"

News release: German organic seed supplier Bingenheimer Saatgut AG and its research partner Kultursaat e. V announce Bingenheimer Seeds Day to promote organic seed varieties, they welcome the EU Court decision on gene edited crops

News: Spain's Diario Vasco examines Monsanto's negative reputation, and Bayer's decision to retire the company name post-merger, Monsanto Spain and Portugal's Carlos Vicente noted environmentalists' claims are not based on scientific criteria

News release: President of Chamber of Agriculture Lower Austria Hermann Schultes calls for expansion of requirement for food labeling of origin, due to imports of unlabeled GM foods, he noted Austria's restrictions on GMOs are stricter than other member states

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentine Seed Association writes for La Nacion, examines ways in which China is a bottleneck for ag biotech, amplifies CropLife International study demonstrating economic losses resulting from China's delays in biotech approvals

Interview: Argentina's Coletivo Huerquen interviews Vandana Shiva on ecofeminism, she speaks out against abuse of pesticide companies, claims they are producing toxins not seeds, claims everything written by Bayer-Monsanto is a lie

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Chihuahua corn producers' meeting with Andrés Manuel López Obrador's coordinator Juan Carlos Loera to request permission to plant GM corn, ag leader Pedro Ortiz pointed to success of GM cotton as an example

Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexico's La Jornada, amplifies two studies claiming to demonstrate that CRISPR can cause cancer and other off-target effects, welcomes EU Court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 6, 2018
Date: Monday, August 6, 2018 4:03:37 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

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

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

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In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Charles Benbrook

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

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

Stories Worth Sharing

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

Ryan Tipps: A Fresh Look campaign aims to educate moms on benefits of GMOs

Mark Lynas: Scientists question anti-GMO activists' claims that Bt cotton has failed in India

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

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

Markie Hageman: Misguided to claim that farmers are culprits in demise of honeybees

Brian Cross: Junk science makes it harder to tell fact from fiction on topics including glyphosate, GMOs

Dietitian: Benefits of eating fruits and vegetables far outweigh impact of pesticide residue

Chandre Dharmawardana: Hidden agenda to push organic food sales drives false claims blaming pesticides for bee deaths

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

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

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Benbrook.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

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

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

California panel recommends listing chlorpyrifos as toxic air contaminant

France to enact ban on five neonic pesticides with no derogations

Calendar highlights

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

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- *Reuters* reported the Trump administration rescinded a ban on GM crops and neonics enacted during the Obama era. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director Greg Sheehan said the move is needed to ensure adequate forage for migratory birds. Sheehan said decisions on use would be on a case-by-case basis. Defenders of Wildlife's Jenny Keating said "industrial agriculture" has no place in areas dedicated to wildlife conservation. The Center for Biological Diversity's Hannah Connor said the step would "harm bees and other pollinators already in steep decline" to appease pesticide makers. **See more**

- The Biotechnology Innovation Organization's Karen Batra questioned whether the EU court's gene editing ruling will be a "deathblow" for biotechnology in the EU. The European Seed Association's Garlich von Essen said much potential for innovative methods was lost for Europe and would have "negative economic and environmental consequences." In France, Volunteer Reapers destroyed a field of sunflowers made herbicide tolerant via mutagenesis and later referred to the court's ruling as they asked authorities to destroy the fields. **See more**

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

North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

- The FSSAI issued a news release in response to activist criticism regarding a Centre for Science and Environment study that reportedly found unlabeled, illegal GM food sold in India. The agency noted it is developing procedures to assess GM food safety, including imported products. FSSAI defended its rule that only foods containing 5 percent or more of GM ingredients should be labeled, noting that other countries use this standard, including Japan, Canada, and Thailand. Coalition for a GM-Free India's Kavitha Kuruganti wrote an open letter to FSSAI citing the CSE study and demanding the agency remove the identified and unlabeled products containing GMOs from stores and penalize the manufacturers. **See more**

- British MP Matt Ridley wrote for *The Times* that the ECJ's ruling on gene editing will hurt farmers and the environment, increase food costs, encourage more pesticide use and encourage researchers to leave the European Union. Spanish news site *El Confidencial* reported scientists criticized the ruling, saying it failed to take into account developments over the past two decades in molecular biology. **See more**

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

- Cornell Alliance for Science's Nkechi Isaac reported on Nigeria's approval of a Bt cotton variety, celebrating the country's first commercialized GM crop. Isaac quoted Rose Maxwell Gidado of the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, who noted that GM cowpea was also close to reaching farmers. **See more**
- India's *Deccan Chronicle* reported on a recent Centre for Science and Environment study, noting that many imported baby foods contained unlabeled GMO ingredients. *Economic Times* columnist Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar criticized the "alarmist" report, calling for environmentalists to understand the science before reacting to causes. **See more**
- News outlets in Mexico continued to report on the efforts of future agriculture minister Victor Villalobos, who reassured environmentalists that the administration was seeking to focus on domestic food production. Mexico's *El Semanario* published a column examining the writings of the planned science and technology administrator, María Elena Álvarez-Buylla, noting potential concerns around proposed restructuring of the agency. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow surveys worldwide reaction to European Court of Justice ruling on gene editing; USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue says decision based on outdated regulations, stymies innovation, while European Seed Association warns of negative consequences for Europe

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

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

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

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

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

Explained" (Aug. 7)

More North America items

Africa

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

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 30, 2018
Date: Monday, July 30, 2018 9:02:39 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included continued response to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision regulating new genetic modification techniques under the GMO Directive. Indian activists continued to amplify a study indicating many imported and domestic foods contain unlabeled GMOs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

for large corporations

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

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

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

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

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

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

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Green America

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

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Court ruling leaves Europe "in the dark" on plant breeding innovations

Cameron English: European court ruling will make gene editing too expensive for universities, nonprofits and small businesses

Ronald Bailey: European court ruling applies "uselessly onerous" regulatory schemes to gene-edited crops

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

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

Stephan Neidenbach: Exposing "rapid response team" that serves Stonyfield's Hirshberg on GMO, herbicide issues

Hope Kelly: Biotechnology boosts Philippines agriculture market and gives hope of feeding growing population

Angela Logomasini: "Opportunistic" lawyers seeking big payouts, not proof that glyphosate causes cancer

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

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

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Green America.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Gary Truitt: If science doesn't matter, agriculture has a problem

Plant pathologist: European neonic ban based on unreasonable zero-risk principle

Christopher Bendana: African plant biotechnologists benefit from collaborative research

GENETIC LITERACY PROJECT SERIES

BY DAVID ZARUK

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

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

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

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What's Trending?

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

France reveals new Ecophyto plan to reduce pesticide usage

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

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

Calendar highlights

August 4-10	August 5-10	August 5-6
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation food security week	Ecological Society of America annual meeting	Agricultural & Applied Economics Association annual meeting

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Date: Sunday, July 29, 2018 9:01:26 PM

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued commentary on the European Court of Justice decision to regulate gene editing under regulations governing GMOs. Mexican media reported president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador plans to ban GMO cultivation.

- Biotechnology advocates and anti-GMO activists continued commentary on the EU court decision on new breeding techniques. David Zaruk criticized the outcome as a "scientifically illiterate decision" that failed to recognize organic farmers exploiting a weak European Union to derail biotechnology and pesticides. Rothamsted Research's Nigel Halford said the ruling set back biotechnology in the EU by 20 years. The Europe-based International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements called for the development of methods to detect products made via new breeding techniques since the products currently are undetectable. *Smithsonian* magazine reported groups such as Greenpeace are calling for authorities to halt field trials on gene-edited products in the U.K., Belgium, Finland and Sweden. **See more**

- Mexican news sites reported expected Agriculture Minister nominee Victor Villalobos assured media during a news conference that Obrador would ban GMO cultivation in the country. Villalobos also said Obrador's goal was to have Mexico be self-sufficient in growing its own food by the end of his term in six years. **See more**

- Bolivian news outlets reported that agricultural producers used National Wheat Day to urge the country's rural development minister to allow transgenic crop cultivation. Highlighting the recent drought and underperforming wheat, groups say modernized seed production could significantly improve yields. The minister responded that consultants were currently reviewing proposals on the issue from the producers. **See more**

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

North America

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

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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 commentary on the European Court of Justice's decision on gene editing. An NGO reported on its study on unlabeled GMOs imported into India and recommended tougher standards.

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

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North America

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

More Oceania items

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

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

- The European Court's decision ignored recommendations by Advocate General Michal Bobek, who had previously recommended that the regulations not apply to new plant breeding techniques similar to mutagenesis. The court's decision instead noted that all mutagenesis techniques remain subject to the GMO Directive, but that conventionally used techniques with a "long safety record" may be exempted. The decision prompted significant stakeholder response. Industry groups EuropaBIO and Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VIC), among others, described the decision as a significant setback for European innovation. The German farming group Deutscher Bauernverband highlighted recent droughts and said the decision "sabotaged" farmers' ability to fight climate change. **See more**

- British activist groups GM Freeze and GeneWatch U.K. announced that they had submitted a letter to environment secretary Michael Gove, urging him to halt field trials of gene-edited *Camelina sativa*. The groups claimed that the new ruling meant the field trials had been undertaken illegally. **See more**

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North America

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Belgian officials had approved a gene-edited maize field trial without EU oversight. European news outlets previewed an EU Court of Justice opinion due this week on some new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

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

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North America

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

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

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

More North America items

Africa

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

More Africa items

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Europe items

Latin America

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

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

News: Argentinian news source Bichos de Campo reports public can now participate in discussion concerning recommendations to regulate pesticide applications until Aug. 20

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights articles contrasting the past, present and future of agriculture.

In a piece published by *Townhall*, Paul Driessen explains how the agroecology movement rejects modern agricultural advances and wants to return to techniques used in days gone by. Jon Entine and Henry Miller, in an article that appeared in *The Daily Caller*, describe how Russia's current propaganda is boosting advocacy groups' efforts to block today's best farming methods and discoveries. And Tamar Haspel, writing for *Vox*, asks whether the public will be willing to accept the CRISPR techniques that hold promise for the future.

Other articles examine endocrine disruption claims about pesticides, the debate over GM ryegrass in New Zealand and the viruses that have been found to impact bees.

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 Real Organic Project

The Real Organic Project formed to "highlight the failures" of the USDA National Organic Program, saying it is "disgusted" with the program and calling it a

Stories Worth Sharing

Paul Driessen: Agroecology is "anti-GMO organic food activism on steroids," rejecting all modern agricultural advances

Henry Miller and Jon Entine: Russia trying to boost its non-GM agriculture by intertering with U.S. biotech's "stunning advances"

Mark Lynas: Science winning "war of words" on genetic engineering as anti-GMO advocates back down

Hank Campbell: Endocrine disruption claims "throw out science and replace it with mysticism"

Tamar Haspel: CRISPR is "everything GMOs aren't," but will the public buy in?

John Dillard: Despite early rulings, glyphosate not "out of the woods yet" on Prop 65 warning labels

Researchers ask Juncker, European Commission to enact policies allowing Europe to be at "forefront of innovation" in plant breeding

Science 2.0: Penn State study reinforces consensus that viruses are key culprit in worsening bee health

disaster on issues including GMO labeling and allowing hydroponic (soil-free) organic production.

The organization is comprised of extreme organic farming advocates, including Beyond Pesticides co-founder and executive director Jay Feldman.

The Real Organic Project claims it is neither extreme nor radical; however, it opposes conventional and organic coexistence, includes NGOs that support the criminal destruction of GMO research and its founding members include promoters of extreme Maharishi Vedic organic food practices.

The group has been in the news recently for its Farm Bill, USDA GMO labeling and National Organic Program lobbying.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about the Real Organic Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Bob Edlin: With environmental benefits proven, will genetically modified ryegrass still face opposition from New Zealand Greens?

Science 2.0: Public mistakenly trusts environmental NGOs on issues including pesticides

Alex Berezow: Law firm Matthews & Associates "willing to promote any junk science propaganda to make a buck"

Pavitar Pal Singh Pangli: India's Supreme Court must protect intellectual property for Bt cotton or risk creating "country of bandits"

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What's Trending?

Human Rights Watch report claims aerial pesticide spraying poisons people in Brazil's rural areas

European Court of Justice set to rule Wednesday on new plant breeding techniques

Greenpeace, other activists demand European Commission outlaw neonic ban derogations seen by farmers as lifeline

New glyphosate cancer claims filed as California trial continues

Calendar highlights

July 24-25	July 24	July 27-28
Meeting of G-20 science engagement group	Consumers Union of Japan briefing on GMO labeling efforts in South Korea, Japan and United States	G-20 leaders summit meeting on agriculture

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Weekend global biotechnology developments included European Union media and stakeholders commenting on an upcoming European Court of Justice ruling on regulating mutagenesis and new gene-editing methods. Media amplified a study published by *Cell Press* that gene editing could lead to fruit and vegetables with better nutrition, taste and other positive attributes.

- *Reuters* reported the EU's highest court will announce its decision Wednesday on whether gene editing and mutagenesis techniques are subject to laws governing GMOs. It reported advocate general Michal Bobek gave an opinion that the techniques can be exempt if products do not contain foreign DNA. However, *GMWatch* criticized the *Reuters* article and said it misinterpreted Bobek's statement. European plant scientists published an open letter to the European Commission suggesting three actions for commissioners to take to put Europe back in the forefront of agricultural innovation. An Austrian team of journalists and a plant scientist noted gene editing could begin a revolution in agricultural produces and said that, contrary to popular belief, biotech crops are more environmentally friendly than organic crops. **See more**
- A *Cell Press* news release on a New Zealand Plant and Food Research study noted that by editing MYB transcription factor genes, scientists could produce fruit and vegetables with better nutrition and taste, as well as more appetizing colors, shapes and textures. The release spurred articles in the U.S. and New Zealand that noted the changes could produce new varieties of produce with a "wow factor." **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Henry I. Miller, Jon Entine write that Russia colludes with NGOs such as USRTK to attack those who advocate science-based decisions on GMOs, even those with consumer, altruistic benefits such as Golden Rice; notes personal attack campaigns against Kevin Folta, other professors to cripple their reputations

Commentary: Cell Press notes MYB transcription factors will allow gene editing to drive novelty in fruits and vegetables that appeal to consumers by improving taste, color, nutrition; says MYBs often are gene that provides "wow factor"

News: The National Post reports Japan drops ban on Canadiean wheat imports; mystery lingers over how GM wheat discovered in Alberta got there, notes it doesn't match any strain in any GM field test and wheat does not survive Canadian winters

News: Minnesota TV station reports company introducing non-GMO soybean that will give same food grade advantages as GE oils with added health benefits; Minnesota Soybean CEO says TruSoya bred to have high levels of omega-3s within it, hopes to have variety commercially ready for farmers to plant by 2020

News: CBC reports California startup Finless Foods develops technology to create lab-grown fish, notes major hurdle remaining is regulation, as U.S. FDA trying to sort out what animal protein is without

coming from slaughtered animal; CEO says next challenge would be to win over consumers

Video: CropLife International releases video exploring economic costs of pre-harvest losses to pest and disease, notes plant biotechnology and crop protection products can prevent some of these losses

News: Bloomberg reports biotechnology startup Recombinetics using gene-editing tools TALEN and CRISPR to tweak DNA of animals, including effort to develop hornless cattle, notes other scientists also using GE techniques to create better crops, treat human diseases, points out USDA, FDA taking different stances on gene editing issue

More North America items

Africa

News: Farmers Review Africa reports governments, farmers oppose GM seeds, citing fears of lack of food security, food diversity, nutrition; notes FAO raises concerns of market dominance by Monsanto, allergic reactions by some consumers

News: Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Authority warns consumers to read GMO labels to make informed decisions, notes it only allows GMOs in imported processed foods

News: Gambian news site reports Brazilian scholar tells Gambians not to succumb to fear of GMOs; Gambian scholar said the country first must gain knowledge to manager GMOs before embracing them

More Africa items

Asia

News: South China Morning Post reports Chinese pest resistant to Bt cotton gets population boost due to warmer weather, threatening China's cotton crop and complicating country's trade war with U.S.

News: Times of India reports anti-biotech activist Kavitha Kuruganti speaks at festival, says corporations such as Monsanto use seed patents to control farmers, claims they employ "spies" to check on seed

News: Philippines news site reports economic professor says Filipino farmers losing up to $634 million annually by not commercializing Bt eggplant

News: Indian newspaper reports bollworm resistance to Bt cotton caused extensive destruction last season to cotton crop, driving farmers into bankruptcy; notes government task force member says failure led to increased pesticide use, loss of cotton diversity

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: EU plant scientists publish open letter to European Commission on definitions for new plant breeding techniques

News: Deutsche Welle reports U.K. study shows CRISPR causes unwanted mutations far from areas targeted by medical researchers, molecular biologists, contradicts claims that CRISPR is "reasonably specific" and causes damage in other areas of genome

Commentary: Deutsche Welle notes population growing but land to raise food is shrinking, notes GM foods hold promise of increased yields, but GMO watchdog group warns that editing food genomes before we understand them is "last thing we should be doing"

Commentary: Austrian news team notes upcoming EU court decision opens up gene editing debate, notes hypocrisy that organic crops are not environmentally better than conventional crops per unit of produce; notes biotech's environmental benefits could greatly aid organic farming, but they have been

"unnecessarily pitted against one another"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports on country's newly appointed National Council of Science and Technology director Maria Elena Alvarez-Bulya's views on GM crops, says changing genome can create "unintended consequences"

News: Mexican news site reports agency gave no authorization to plant GM cotton, but possibility could be discussed at water committee meeting

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science blogger says using gene editing MYB transcription factors can lead to new variety of fruit, vegetables with "wow factor" due to better taste, more nutrients, more appetizing appearance

News: New Zealand news site reports Northland Regional Council to hear submission for addition to updated regional plan for GMOs; hearing possibly to be in October

More Oceania items

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- New Zealand's AgResearch announced field trials are underway in the U.S. on HME ryegrass after preliminary trials showed the GM grass grew faster, is more resistant to drought and produced 23 percent less methane emissions from livestock. Recently, New Zealand political blogger Bob Edlin wrote that environmentalists should encourage HME grass development due to its environmental benefits. However, a GE-Free New Zealand news release said U.S. farmers fear pollen from the field trials will "contaminate their farms" and that preliminary trial results are "an illusion." It called funding for the trials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) and Dairy NZ "a slap in the face for farmers." **See more**

- Two peasant farming groups criticized the Regional Committee of Seeds and Plants of West Africa's efforts at harmonizing regional seed laws to ease cross-border transport. The groups said the "lack of transparency and inclusivity strongly suggests that it is a conspiracy" against peasants and food sovereignty and an effort to aid large seed and chemical companies. The groups, the West African Committee of Seeds Farmers and the Coalition for the Protection of the African Genetic Heritage, also called for investment in peasant seed systems. **See more**

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North America

News: Capital Press reports meat producers want level playing field with lab-grown meat industry, don't want it called "beef" or "pork;" lab-grown meat industry believes USDA will make market access more difficult than FDA regulation

Commentary: GMO Science amplifies JAMA study indicating pesticide residues in foods may impair fertility, notes increase in pesticide use coincides with introduction of GM crops, suggests women attempting to conceive eat organic food

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger Amanda Zaluckyj discusses formation of Sustainable Food Policy Alliance, which plans to engage on issue of nutrition labeling, points out companies in new group pulled out of Grocery Manufacturers Association, which took aggressive stance against GMO labeling

Commentary: OCA director Ronnie Cummins writing for global regenerative ag advocacy group cites regenerative ag as solution to global crises including global warming, climate change, nutrient-deficient food, deteriorating public health, lists steps to get started including end of GMO-, pesticide-based ag practices

Commentary: The Spoon writer discusses debate over marketing of plant-based "milk" products, with FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb saying his agency will start more strict enforcement of rules governing what can be marketed as milk, noting FDA's standard of identity defines milk as coming from lactating

animal

More North America items

Africa

News: Senegal news site reports scientific forum examines GMO advantages, disadvantages, limitations; agro-economist urges participants to move on from 20-year-old debate and ask the right questions" about GMOs and development challenges, says GMO use is justified by global food crisis 10 years ago

News: Tanzanian news site reports minister tells inspectors to observe rules on imported foods, says they also need to educate people on "side effects" of foods such as GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, says Indiaâ€™s Supreme Court must uphold intellectual property rights to allow farmers access to modern agricultural technology needed to feed themselves and others, give companies incentive to sell technology in India

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K.-based clothing news site reports effort aims to create universally accepted method to test for GMOs in organic cotton

News: Germany news site reports Testbiotech's Christopher Then claims GM rapeseed, corn could transfer genetics such as pesticide resistance to wild plants and cause problems, says GM plants already "sprouting in uncontrolled manner"

News: Nieuwe Oogst reports Dutch dairy company asking pasture dairy farmers to switch to feeding VLOG-certified feed, hoping to meet demand for non-GMO milk in German market; pilot project shows impact of transition to VLOG milk limited, GMO-free feed has no effect on health of cows, milk production

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentine agricultural news site reports expert says gene editing frees universities to perform research, points out gene editing's usefulness in creating less waste, making crops, animals disease resistant

Commentary: Chilean news site comments that new Mexican President AMLO must choose between supporting GMO producers or protecting the nation's environment and farmers' rights

News: Mexican news site reports farmers ask for resources to detect GM seed; legal adviser says some believe Monsanto is distributing seed in smaller markets through seed companies that offer GM seed as improved seed

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: AgResearch says its field trials find HME ryegrass grows 50 percent faster, stores more energy, more resistant to drought, produces 23 percent less methane than conventional grass, notes full U.S. trial began a month ago

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 18, 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 a new report from the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) outlining key technologies for agricultural research investment.

- The released a new report highlighting five key technologies for U.S. agricultural research investment, emphasizing the need for U.S. agriculture to remain competitive. Reports in *Politico* and other news outlets noted that China significantly outspends the U.S. in scientific research and in agricultural research in particular. Amplification of the report also noted the need to address future climate change pressures on food production. **See more**

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: Agricultural news outlets report NAS study identifies areas to focus research to provide breakthroughs to transform U.S. agriculture, including gene editing on important organisms to improve traits for productivity and quality

Commentary: Vox writer reports NAS report notes imposing list of problems facing agriculture, notes gene editing provides huge opportunity to help solve those issues, but questions whether benefits will win over the public

Report: National Academy of Sciences report recommends the U.S. invest in most promising agricultural research areas to make food system more resilient, efficient

News: Xconomy reports Massachusetts-based ag biotech startup Inari Agriculture wants to use CRISPR to customize seeds that will grow best in soil and weather at farm where they'll be planted, aims to begin field testing of "personalized seed for farmers" in 2019

Commentary: Hawaii Farmers Daughter blogger writes about talking with people at fair about GMOs and GM papaya, notes those who reject pesticides and GMOs wear cotton clothing, eat fried foods from food truck rather than fresh papaya

News: Philadelphia radio station reports assistant professor of plant science at Delaware State University calls for consumers to use common sense in evaluating food label absence claims, pointing out absurdity of bottled water with The Non-GMO Project label

News: Modern Farmer amplifies article on creeping bentgrass, notes regulations lag behind new developments, points out how easily grass seeds spread through environment and can become a nuisance

News: Politico Pro reports FDA commissioner says agency is working closely with USDA on regulatory framework for lab-grown meat, expects collaboration on meat and poultry while other products will fall outside USDA jurisdiction

Campaign: Center for Food Safety urges readers to oppose amendment that would allow GE crops in wildlife refuges, urges writing congressional representatives

More North America items

Africa

News: Zambia national news outlet reports country's National Biosafety Authority chairman holds media briefing to clarify Zambia does not import GMOs to protect human, animal health

News: Nigerian news site reports biosafety agency to crack down on stores, stakeholders breaking GMO laws, will establish biosafety help desks in all 26 states to strengthen surveillance and monitoring

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology Development Agency acting director promotes using biotech to boost ag yields, help environment and economy, address climate change, notes Africa affected by biotech opponents

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Indian GM seed companies find demand in Kenya, Ethiopia as Indian activists, courts, government officials thwart GM crops in India

News: India's Financial Express reports government advises states to ban glyphosate sales - except states that grow tea - to cut down on unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton use

News: English-language Chinese TV news site reports China puts tariffs on American farm products as part of trade war, notes price increases will benefit Chinese soy farmers but will not see immediate fluctuation due to soy stockpiles

News: China's Caixin reports on admission by Yuan Longping High-Tech that it marketed GM corn seeds without required licenses and safety clearance, Yuan Longping High-Tech states it cooperated with authorities in issuing a recall on the seeds

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news agency reports Green Party leader wants party to re-think platform regarding genetic engineering rejection, says party should not be guided by fears

Commentary: German news site business editor notes Greens discussing possible change to platform regarding genetic engineering, points out Bayer's stock value has dropped since buying Monsanto, says it makes company a target

News: German news site reports group of 30 organic companies present petition against GM and gene-edited food, says seed purity at risk, rejects patents on plants, animals

Event: Swiss Radio and TV news site promotes upcoming radio debate on how gene editing should be regulated, notes upcoming landmark EU court decision

News: Agrow reports EU ombudsman says acceptable action has been taken at EU level to avoid delays in replying to requests for information on GMO approvals

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's Biotechnology Information Council note three European studies discount Seralini's conclusions on GMO safety and pesticide toxicity

Report: Paraguay's BASE Social Investigations promotes its report on use of transgenic crops, says it brings increased import and use of agrochemicals that affect environment, human health

News: Brasil de Fato reports Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC) claims agribusiness model of production consumes 70 percent of Earth's land and water resources while producing only 30 percent of world's food, argues big companies less concerned about fighting hunger

News: Mexico's La Jornada Maya reports indigenous, environmental groups halt Sustainability Agreement of the Yucatan Peninsula (Aspy), force government to launch largest consultation in country to gain local opinions on agreement; Greenpeace Mexico denounces use of pesticides, transgenic crops in Yucatan

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand says New Zealand pastoral industry funding of GE ryegrass trials is wasteful investment that ignores ag challenges in need of support, slap in face to farmers

Commentary: New Zealand's Farmers Weekly blogger notes agriculture asked to reduce greenhouse gases, but GM grass that reduces methane production is likely to be tied up in regulatory review for years, asks if solution is worse than the problem; notes ban on GMOs prevents area farmers from competing

News: New Zealand's Rural News reports university professor, ex-government science adviser say country needs new biotech discussion, says younger generation recognizes value of genetic modification but others worry despite evidence that shows no environmental or health concerns

Commentary: Queensland Farm Federation president writes for Australia's Queensland Country Life, says GM crops increase yields, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve water use efficiency, reduce pesticide use, can address health issues and malnutrition

More Oceania items

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 activity included media coverage of biosafety developments in Nigeria, as well as continued NGO campaigning on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) in Europe.

- Nigerian news outlets reported on a training workshop held over the weekend, where members of the Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB) and the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) reviewed the country's progress and goals in biosafety management. Among other issues raised at the meeting, news outlets reported on criticisms of NGO fear-mongering, plans to commercialize Bt cotton and a nationwide survey of GM food imports. **See more**
- Germany's BÖLW, in coordination with other environmental activist organizations, announced more than 100,000 people had participated in the group's FOODprint campaign. The group added consumers were concerned about an upcoming EU Court of Justice opinion that could allow genetic engineering techniques through the "back door" without complete regulation. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Science writer Stephen Hall writes cover story for Wired's August issue, with focus on Boyce Thompson Institute researchers Zachary Lippman and Joyce Van Eck's work using CRISPR to create useful improvements in tomato plants

News release: Global ID Group announces rebranding as FoodChain ID, effective immediately, with goal of enhancing consumer experience and streamlining sales, marketing and communications efforts, highlights growth of its Non-GMO Project verification service

Commentary: National Pork Producers Council's Science and Technology Director Dan Kovich writes for Farm Journal's Pork, argues that allowing lab-grown meat to be marketed as "clean" is unacceptable, calls for regulation by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service

News: Politico's morning ag news roundup reports on House Rules Committee's approval of amendment to prevent prohibitions on cultivating GE crops on commercial agricultural operations on National Wildlife Refuges

News: Legal Newsline reports on lawsuit filed by Wapsie Farms in Iowa accusing Monsanto of conspiring to unlawfully dominate the dicamba-tolerant soybean seed and herbicide trait markets

News: Topeka, Kansas news site reports farm alleges Monsanto placed profits ahead of crop damage when it marketed seeds resistant to dicamba before making a less volatile herbicide in federal lawsuit filed this week, notes petition could be catalyst for class action of state farmers

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Country Coordinator Rose Gidado's statement that negative information being spread about GMOs is untrue and not science-based, emphasizing need for self-sufficiency in ag

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on recent meeting organized by Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology, National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium President Celestine Aguoru lamented political sabotage by anti-GMO activists who manipulate science

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's announcement of nationwide survey on GM products, collaborating with other agencies to assure Nigerians that their safety is protected

News: Nigeria's The Oracle reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's statement that NBMA is collaborating with Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Police Force and other stakeholders to fight unauthorized GMOs

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency's announcement that it will soon commercialize Bt cotton to boost textile industry, acting Director General Alex Casmir Akpa noted many mills have closed due to lack of supply

News: Uganda Today reports on Science and Technology Chairman, Nakifuma County MP Kafeero Ssekitooleko's confirmation that the committee report on the national biosafety bill is ready to be debated again

Report: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa's Annual Report 2017 provides highlights of activities in 2017 and an overview of future plans, promotes its initiative to train farmers on agroecology

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity's Biosafety Clearing House announces completion of validation workshop of National Biosafety Strategy of Senegal, the process allowed for closing gap in planning for alignment with Strategic Plan of the Cartagena Protocol

More Africa items

Asia

News: China's Caixin reports on admission by Yuan Longping High-Tech that it marketed GM corn seeds without required licenses and safety clearance, Yuan Longping High-Tech states it cooperated with authorities in issuing a recall on the seeds

News release: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces results of survey which found that the country has imported an estimated 156,270 tons of processed GM foods over the past five years, reiterates call for more stringent labeling laws

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany's Federation of Organic Food Industry (BOLW) announces delivery of over 108,000 footprints, handprints and signatures from the FOODprint campaign against GMOs to Environment Minister Svenja Schulze

News: Austria's Ausseer Regional Television reviews series of reports on debate surrounding genetic engineering, highlighting opposition from the Green party in Parliament, as well as anticipated EU Court opinion on new breeding techniques

News release: Testbiotech welcomes commitment by EFSA director Bernhard Url to ensure that future EFSA staff members will no longer co-author publications with industry scientists, in response to complaint raised by Testbiotech re paper on risks of GM maize

Commentary: Marta Novoa of Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama examines EU's risk assessment process for GMOs, notes the process is very thorough, and that any GM product approved on the market has been determined as safe as its conventional counterpart

Announcement: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) announces this year's Future Policy Award will focus on policies for scaling-up agroecology, the winner will be announced during World Food Week in Oct. 2018

Commentary: GM Watch amplifies Nature Biotechnology study that found unintended DNA changes in human cells modified with CRISPR; quotes Michael Antoniou and claims findings have implications for plant gene editing

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Israeli biotech company Evogene announces partnership with Brazil's Instituto Mato-grossense do Algodao (IMAmt) for collaborative developments in insect resistance traits in cotton, with special focus on cotton boll weevil

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Australia's Weekly Times, welcomes environmental groups' shift away from anti-GMO activism, explains his shift in opinion after realizing that the scientific consensus on GMO safety mirrors that on climate change

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included German media reports on the policy battles over new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- In an interview with *Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland* (RND) over the weekend, Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner said that regulators should avoid a "reflexive" rejection of new genetic engineering techniques. She went on to add that transparency of production techniques along the entire food chain was required in order to ease consumer fears. In a statement today to the same organization, Environment Minister Svenja Schulze criticized Klöckner, saying that an upcoming European Court of Justice ruling threatened to allow "back door" genetic engineering. **See more**
- The Cornell Alliance for Science urged supporters to email supportive comments about vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice, noting that public consultations on rice field trials are scheduled for Wednesday and Friday. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Matt Simon of Wired examines recent FDA public meeting on how cultured meat should be labeled, highlights differences in various stakeholders' definitions of "meat," and in their vested interests, emphasizes the power of words on consumers

Commentary: Writing for Medium, founder of superfoods company Nutiva criticizes efforts by Monsanto, Impossible Burger to use vegan movement to justify ecosystem destruction, highlights "fake meats" use glyphosate sprayed crops that cause ocean dead zones, soil health decline, habitat destruction, bee deaths

Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News reports on Consumer Reports survey which found that 49 percent of respondents believe cultured animal cell food products should be labeled as meat with an explanation of how it is produced, such as "lab-grown" rather than "clean"

News: Richmond News reports locally-based company Nature's Path Foods withdraws its membership from Organic Trade Association, in protest of OTA's support of USDA's proposed GMO disclosure standard

News: Agweek reports on survey by International Food Information Council Foundation which found that 47 percent of consumers avoid GMOs at least somewhat, due to concerns about human health, the environment and agriculture

Commentary: Jeffrey Reel writes for VT Digger, criticizes University of Vermont study on consumer response to GMO labeling, argues that the purpose of GMO labels is to inform consumers, and that long-term health effects may remain unknown for several years

Commentary: University of Washington geomorphology professor David Montgomery writes opinion piece in Scientific American, promotes his book, "Growing a Revolution," advocates regenerative ag practices to restore soil health

Commentary: Scott Miller of Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources (FAIR) writes for Colorado news outlet, criticizes Boulder County's restrictions on GM crops, points out problem with non-farmers treating farmers as if they don't know what they're doing

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Haidee Swanby of African Centre for Biodiversity recounts recent International Adaptation Futures Conference in Cape Town, criticizes presentation of corporate-driven, climate-smart agriculture, argues technology always comes with owners and IP rights

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science emphasizes need for submission of written comments in support of golden rice in the Philippines, in addition to testimony at public consultations on July 18 and 20, amid continued targeting by anti-GMO activist groups

Announcement: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces upcoming symposium on GMO labeling on July 19, co-hosted by Korea-U.S. International Symposium, Moms Across America is participating in discussion on U.S. GMO labeling

Commentary: Cornell University's weekly newspaper cites observation by entomology professor directing GM eggplant project that planting Bt eggplant seed helping subsistence farmers improve profits, health, reduce pesticide use

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news outlet reports on Environment Minister Svenja Schulze's objection to Ag Minister Julia Kloeckner's request for unbiased approach to new GE methods, arguing that human health and the environment should be prioritized

News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports on Federal Agriculture Minister Julia Kloeckner's warning against "reflexive" rejection of new GE methods, noting their potential to benefit regions where dry soils endanger crops, she also called for more transparent labeling

Commentary: Joachim Muller-Jung writes editorial for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, examines question of whether GE is becoming more acceptable, ahead of EU Court of Justice opinion on new breeding techniques, argues they don't necessarily go against nature

Report: Friends of the Earth Europe publishes briefing ahead of EU Court of Justice ruling on new breeding techniques, examining possible scenarios and consequences of potential rulings, argues NBTs should be subject to same safety checks as current GMOs

Letter to the editor: Schopfheim resident Hans-Ulrich Rammelt writes to Badische Zeitung, criticizes Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts' recent interview for one-sidedness on GMOs, argues that there are alternative methods for increasing food production

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Frederic Prat examines debate over EU's new organic regulations, voices concern about marketing of seeds produced with "heterogeneous biological material," highlights IFOAM's assertion that products of new breeding techniques are GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Milenio reports process of Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation on Decree 418, which prohibits planting of GMOs in Yucatan, still pending; state's legal counsel cites importance of next government giving continuity so ruling is favorable, says prohibition would have many benefits

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports NGO Other Worlds publishes update of its "Manual of Agroecology and Agroforestry," points out six large companies control large-scale model of agriculture that causes environmental, health problems through use of transgenics, pesticides

Commentary: Dario Aranda of Argentina's Pagina 12 examines Bayer's efforts to hide negative image associated with Monsanto, amplifies Mexican researcher Fernando Bejarano Gonzalez's work investigating Bayer's ties to Nazism

Commentary: Carlos A. Vicente of Grain International writes for Argentina's Los Andes, claims that the purpose of GMOs is not to increase productivity or boost nutrition but to raise profits of corporations, promotes agroecolgy

Commentary: Agronomist Pablo Cavagnaro writes for Argentina's Los Andes, highlights potential for transgenic products to improve nutrition, as in purple tomatoes and golden rice, notes the technology itself is not good or bad

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on anticipated food labeling reforms, which will include disclosure about presence of transgenic ingredients, Deputy Minister of Health Governance and Surveillance, Carlos Duran noted labeling should better inform the public

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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

Events calendar

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 16, 2018
Date: Monday, July 16, 2018 4:11:39 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter again features a series of articles that question the value of sometimes misleading food labels.

As testimony continues in a case claiming that glyphosate caused a California man to get cancer, Hank Campbell takes a closer look at the conflict of interests for key witness Christopher Portier and his role in the International Agency for Research on Cancer's glyphosate monograph that set up just this type of litigation.

We also highlight a pair of articles examining German food policy, an investigation into illegal, genetically modified wheat in Canada and Kroger's recent decision to eliminate neonics on its garden plants.

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Earthjustice

Earthjustice is the largest nonprofit environmental litigation organization in the United States and partners with NGOs around the globe to oppose various alleged offenses to nature.

Originally founded as Sierra Club

Stories Worth Sharing

Jake Freestone: For farmers, European moves to restrict neonics, glyphosate and biotechnology like taking away cell phones

Hank Campbell: Portier's ties to lawyers, anti-glyphosate Environmental Defense Fund a clear conflict of interest

Julie Gunlock: Kroger goes against science by phasing out neonic use on its garden plants

Henry Miller/Rob Wager: Russia, China and environmental NGOs among few who could gain from discovery of GM wheat in Canada

AP: Doubts raised over whether organic products are worth higher price

African Agricultural Technology Foundation report finds 2012 GMO ban halted agriculture and food security research

Ryan Tipps: The worst offenders in the Non-GMO Project's "pay-to-play' labeling scheme

Erin Macgregor and Dara Gurau: Non-GMO Project board made up entirely of organic and natural foods industry execs

Michelle Miller: Misleading claims about GMOs, hormones and

Legal Defense Fund in 1971, Earthjustice claims to be dedicated to protecting nature and "defending the right of all people to a healthy environment."

One of Earthjustice's three primary programs, called "Safeguarding Our Health," focuses on legal cases that purport to protect public health in regard to GMOs, pesticides, CAFOs and other alleged threats.

Earthjustice was in the news this week for representing multiple anti-chemical NGOs in a lawsuit to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos. It has also previously been involved in attempts to overturn pesticide registrations due to impacts on bees.

Learn more about Earthjustice HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

antibiotics are no way to sell chicken

Susanne Gunther: Amid inflammatory rhetoric from advocacy groups, German government appears set on crippling biotechnology

Jill Neimark: I got fooled by "Dirty Dozen" claims before realizing research shows conventional produce is "pretty darn clean"

Irina Dumitrescu: Germany's extreme right wing "Bio-Nazis" embrace clean food, could benefit from sales of organic salads

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology report explores potential of genome editing

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Key IARC figure Christopher Portier testifies in lawsuit claiming glyphosate causes cancer

United Nations human rights officials weigh in on proposal to change Brazilian pesticide regulations

U.S. Food and Drug Administration holds hearing amid dispute with Department of Agriculture on oversight of lab-grown meat

U.K. doctoral student reviews existing bee research, claims consensus that pesticides impact learning and memory even at low doses

Calendar highlights

July 16-19	July 17-18	July 17
World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	Beyond GM-sponsored Hospitality & Catering Expo	U.S. EPA hearing on science censorship rule
July 17-20	**July 18**	**July 18 and 20**
U.S. EPA meeting on Resistance of Lepidopteran Pests to Bt Plant Incorporated Protectants	Collaborative on Health and the Environment webinar on EDCs and obesogens	Philippines Golden Rice field trial public consultations in Munoz and San Mateo

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included four major food companies jointly launching a new food policy advocacy group. Reporting and commentary continued on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's meeting on regulating lab-grown meats. A group of 20 peasant organizations called on Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to replace his agricultural minister.

- Danone, Mars, Nestle, and Unilever officials announced the companies are jointly establishing the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance to impact public food policy, reduce sodium content, cut greenhouse gases, promote responsible and transparent marketing, and advance policies that positively impact the environment. Each of the companies previously withdrew from the Grocery Manufacturers Association over disagreements about GMO labeling policy. **See more**
- Sarah Zang of *The Atlantic* commented on the FDA's meeting with lab-grown meat stakeholders, calling the agency's turf war with the Department of Agriculture "farcical." A National Cattlemen's Beef Association news release advocated for the USDA to regulate lab-grown meat. *The Progressive Farmer* reported the FDA highlighted its experience in dealing with cell cultures while regulating other industries. American Meat Science Association scientist Rhonda Miller said not enough is known about processes to produce lab-grown meat to know if it can be called meat, and companies are closely guarding their production methods. **See more**
- A group of 20 Mexican NGOs and peasant organizations demanded Obrador dismiss Víctor Manuel Villalobos as secretary of agriculture. The group released a statement calling Villalobos an "arduous defender of the neoliberal agro-industrial model." The group also said statements by Villalobos indicated he would support gene drive or synthetic biology technology. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Canadian food bloggers who have meal planning and cooking service explain The Non-GMO Project's board made up entirely of CEOs, owners in organic and natural foods industry, none with professional science credentials, point out no scientific evidence that GMOs pose risk to human health, say label just marketing tool

Commentary: Former National Farmers Union president calls Cereals Canada's policy on GM wheat "irresponsible" in light of rogue GM wheat discoveries in Alberta, Oregon; says Cereals Canada works against farmers

Commentary: Henry I. Miller and Rob Wager write for The Daily Caller, examine evidence in rogue GM wheat discovery in Alberta, conclude it had to be intentionally planted, notes those who benefit include Russia, Canadian wheat purchasers such as China, or anti-biotech GMOs

Commentary: Ag Daily's managing editor writes column about increasing number of food products carrying Non-GMO Project butterfly label, calls it "pay-to-play scheme," complains that people with dietary restrictions often have few choices other than products carrying that label, asserts need for

niche products that don't give in

Commentary: Blogger about food tells how farmer explained GM crops use less water, pesticide than conventional crops; recommends talking to farmer about organically grown food vs GM food

Interview: Medium contributor conducts interviews on future of food; notes nutritionist Marion Nestle hopes GM food industry will put solving world food problems ahead of industrial agricultural, cultural historian believes lab-grown meat will expand, but unsure of who will make up market,

More North America items

Africa

News: Mozambique news site reports government to create GMO regulation to maximize biotech use, protect health and environment

Commentary: Zambian news site claims Africa being colonized through educational institutions, corruption, and agribusinesses pushing poisonous pesticides and GMOs

News: Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Authority granted Zambian supermarket chain permit to import GM products, agency found products to be safe for health, environment

News: Nigerian newspaper reports CEO of Nigeria's National Biosafety Development Agency predicts Bt cotton will revive cotton industry, quickly boosting job growth, economy; notes country's commitment to food security through biotechnology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Chinese English-language news site reports Chinese expert says GM food is safe and should be commercialized in China, but says many other countries ban GMOs due to health risks

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: In Politico, German professor reports ultra-right groups in Germany, including Neo-Nazi Party, promoting "clean food" and organics, oppose biotechnology

Commentary: French pro-ag blogger Seppi criticizes Seralini for attacking studies that found no health risks to rats from GMOs; notes studies commissioned after Serralini retracted his study showing GMOs caused cancer in rats

Commentary: Italian science blogger and chemist explains Bt corn is safe, the toxin used by organic farms, says organic producers demonize GMOs to justify their higher prices by creating perception of greater safety;, notes Bt corn protects biodiversity by targeting specific insects, contradicts Coldiretti's assertion that fewer farmers in EU using the crop, notes use is increasing in Spain

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Europe warns upcoming EU court decision on gene-edited products could allow biotech food in "via the backdoor"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian legal news site columnist says there is no consensus on GMO safety, but regardless of safety consumers have right to choose whether to eat GM food or not, says keeping clear labeling is important

News: Mexican news outlets reports Oaxacan group State Space in Defense of Corn calls on President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to withdraw his nomination of Victor Villalobos as ag minister, notes he has been biotech supporter and does not support peasant communities

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Geologist and Antarctic researcher writes op-ed for New Zealand Herald, notes furor over Impossible Burger on Air New Zealand, points out the vegan burger is easier on environment than cows, says there is a risk if country ignores alternatives to protect its meat industry

News: New Zealand Herald questions AgResearch scientist Greg Bryan on potential for GM ryegrass being field tested in U.S., notes benefits include less greenhouse gas from livestock, grows 50 percent faster, more resistant to drought

News: Seeds of Science author Mark Lynas explains in Australian grain farming news site he came to believe science behind GM foods was correct; notes GM foods offer chance at social justice, means to reduce poverty, ensure better health of farmers, safe environment

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a Food and Drug Administration meeting on regulating cell-cultured and other lab-grown meat. A group of Argentine NGOs criticized a proposed seed law amendment that would expand royalties on GM seeds. Continued reporting and commentary on India's illegal Bt cotton focused on the government's role in the problem and why India continues to deny farmers the seeds they want.

- *Politico* reported the FDA's stakeholder meeting sent the message that it will regulate lab-grown meats. Disagreement regarding which agency is responsible for regulating such products has turned into a regulatory turf war. During the meeting, the FDA's Susan Mayne said "FDA has been preparing for this for quite some time." *Politico* also reported the meat industry is lobbying for USDA oversight. Beth Briczinski, vice president for the National Milk Producers Federation, said if regulatory framework lingers as it did for imitation dairy products under the FDA, "we will see abuse by product manufacturers." **See more**

- Argentina agricultural news site *El Enfiteuta* reported a proposed seed law in Argentina seeks to expand patents and royalty collection, noting Monsanto and other large agribusinesses support the measure. A group of NGOs, Multisectorial Against the Law Monsanto de Semillas, released a statement opposing the proposal and saying it would limit farmers' rights to save seeds and extend corporate control over food. **See more**

- An editorial by *Swarajya* executive editor M.R. Subramani argued the Indian government's controls on cotton seed prices and royalties led to a thriving illegal Bt cotton trade after agribusinesses declined to sell new technology to Indian seed companies. A government study found that 15 percent of the land planted with cotton is cultivated with illegal Bt seed. *The Financial Express* noted the government tried to drive Monsanto out of India, but farmers still want the seed technology because it increases yields and saves them labor costs. The article suggested the government needs to bring Monsanto and its technology back. **See more**

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

North America

News: News source for dietary supplement and health food industry reports USDA's proposed rule for national GMO food labeling standards draws criticism from industry over plan to replace terms "GMO" and "genetically modified" with "bioengineered" and "BE," and to allow use of QR codes instead of labels on packages

News release: Consumer Reports announces survey shows consumers want labeling to distinguish lab-grown meat from conventional meat from livestock, Consumers Union urges agencies to require product safety testing

News: AP reports on concerns over organic fraud and value of organic food labeled with USDA seal juxtaposed to hormone, pesticide, GMO and antibiotic absence claims; cites ?real organic project" efforts to increase standards and diligence

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium stakeholders meeting reviews preparedness for Bt cotton, soy, and maize commercialization; official says country needs GM crops to improve food production and security

News: Nigeria's The Sun reports on summit organized by Ecological Organic Agriculture in Lagos entitled "Organic Agriculture: Abundant Opportunities for Health and Hospitality Business," Michigan State University's Jelili Adebiyi highlighted health risks of consuming foods with pesticides,

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network says delegates at SBSTTA22 meeting revive critical risk assessment topic by assigning ad hoc comittee, instructing it to study sustainable use of biodiversity, identify and prioritize risk assessment issues for LMOs; claims views are polarized between developing countries and countries with established biotech industries

News: Indian news site reports farmers continue to buy illegal, herbicide-tolerant, Bt cotton seed at premium cost, notes it eliminates cost of manual weeding; state officials promise swift, strict punishment for anyone cheating farmers

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Farmer, award-winning reporter describes how anti-GMO advocates blocked Germany from GMO cultivation, agricultural innovation despite fact the EU is biggest GMO importer; notes anti-GMO groups that advocate illegally destroying GM crops now guiding rule-making on NBTs while German government intent on blocking gene editing in defiance of EU courts

Commentary: French public sector financial institution reports on Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot's discussion with National Assembly deputies clarifying his position on proposed biodiversity law, assuring them joint order to ministers regarding neonics ban to begin Sept. 1, with possibility of derogations until 2020, will be ready on time

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports biosecurity agency plans to use GM mosquitoes to eliminate Aedes aegypti-transmitted diseases

Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexico's La Jornada, criticizes Intersecretarial Commission of Biosecurity of Genetically Modified Organisms' (Cibiogem) call for creation of GE mosquitoes, claims they will not be successful in combating dengue

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of Gene Technology Regulator announces it authorized field trials for GM wheat modified to resist rust disease

News: New Zealand news site reports New Zealand researchers' GM ryegrass trials in U.S. shows faster growth, believe grass also will cut methane, other greenhouse gas production in livestock

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included U.S. news outlets highlighting questions over which federal agency should regulate synthetic biology in advance of a Food and Drug Administration meeting on the issue. Mark Lynas toured Australia and New Zealand promoting his new book.

- U.S. media outlets and stakeholders reviewed the jurisdictional fight over regulating lab-cultured meat and similar products of synthetic biology. Activist group Sierra Club noted support for the technology from animal rights groups, while a grocery-focused media site noted that U.S. meat producers urged the agencies not to allow the products to be called "meat." The U.S. FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, is scheduled to speak at the agency's meeting on the issue, scheduled for Thursday (July 12). **See more**
- Mark Lynas, on tour in New Zealand and Australia to promote his book "Seeds of Science," told the *Australian Associated Press* that he's hopeful anti-GMO activism will be increasingly marginalized as scientists communicate the benefits of the technology. Anticipating an upcoming speaking event, activist group MADGE issued talking points criticizing Lynas. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Sierra Club notes turf war between FDA and USDA over regulating lab-grown meat, Humane Society VP says livestock industry digging in to protect "old, dirty tech" against new methods; Animal Defense Fund says meat industry wants USDA to regulate synbio but says FDA is better positioned

News: Livestock news site reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb to speak on animal cell culture technology during July 12 meeting, notes agency is competing with USDA over regulating emerging industry of synthetic biology

Commentary: Good Food Institute scientist, Science Trends contributors note biotechnology bringing "clean meat" with reduced environmental footprint

News release: Center for Food Safety announces it filed suit against USDA to make public data and documents regarding GMO labeling rule making, says USDA did not respond to FOIA request

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science profiles Ginkgo Bioworks founder Jason Kelly, highlighting his work on designing custom microbes, Kelly believes fighting against GMO labeling has been counter-productive

Commentary: Mercola adds to criticism of Whole Foods' announcement that it will delay its GMO labeling requirement while USDA finalizes its rules, amplifying analysis by New Food Economy, poses question of whether Whole Foods is committing fraud

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports Indian company licensed to import GM cotton seeds into Kenya after ongoing field trails are completed and if the results show higher cotton production

News: Kenyan farmer, university lecturer writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes Africans being denied technology due to resistance from Europe and anti-GMO activists, although biotech crops are essential in fight against pests, global warming

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports Swiss Consulate announces commitment to support development of sustainable organic sector in Africa

Commentary: Ugandan journalist writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes African nations following trend of debates on gene editing, but African nations need to do more to regulate gene editing; notes scientists working on gene-edited cassava resistant to disease plaguing farmers

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian environmental NGO notes India's Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee confirmed unapproved, herbicide-tolerant GM cotton being used in 15 percent of cotton cultivation, notes it saves farmers labor costs, notes only a couple of companies involved

Commentary: Editorial for the Philippines' Business Mirror promotes upcoming National Science and Technology Week from July 17-21, notes the country is a leader in growth of Bt corn, which has allowed it achieve sufficiency in one of its staple crops

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Italian agriculture association decries Fidenato's persistence in fighting for GMOs, says rejecting GMOs are not enough, but Italy must build non-GMO supply chains beginning with non-GMO labeling

Commentary: Slow Food NGO applauds Friuli Venezia Giulia Forestry Corps destruction of GM corn field owned by Giorgio Fidenato, points out more court appeals likely as EU Court ruled states could not ban MON 810 corn without evidence of health or environmental threat; Slow Food calls ruling "an absurdity"

News: Netherlands news site reports CONO cheese makers to switch to GMO-free, VLOG cheese in 2020; notes VLOG-certified cheese does not allow milk from cows fed GMOs

News: Netherlands dairy news site reports cheese company commits to non-GMO, VLOG-certified cheese by 2020, switching to milk produced by cows fed non-GMO feed, is recruiting VLOG dairy farmers

News release: Irish government announces it approved a directive to opt out of GMO cultivation, minister says it will allow country to keep its green, sustainable food producer reputation and will not affect industrial or medical biotechnology

News: Irish agriculture news site reports minister announces Ireland to keep its GMO-free status, calls it "key element" in maintaining green, sustainable food producer reputation

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports lobbyists struggle over seed law and patents in Argentina, and replanting rights vs. patents and royalties, expert says those who control the seeds control the food market

Commentary: Chilean news site criticizes lack of communication to consumers regarding free trade agreement with EU, says FTAs lower standards and would require Chile to approve new breeders law that prohibits sale of non-certified seed even though EU law allows such sales

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports on writer Mark Lynas change from anti-GMO to biotech supporter, Lynas says groups such as Greenpeace beginning to soften stance on GMOs as they are needed to increase food production in midst of climate change

News release: Australian NGO criticizes Mark Lynas during his Australian tour, says corporations squeezing out smaller producers and controlling world food supply, calls his research methods flawed, points out numerous cases of GM contamination, points out other scientists criticize Lynas and his work

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports Australian canola growers planted just under half a million hectares of Roundup Ready canola in 2018, finding that it allows them to control tough weeds and leaves cleaner paddocks for other crops

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included Ireland's approval of a measure allowing the country to "opt out" of GM crop cultivation under EU law. Also in Europe, a coalition of German and Austrian grocers issued an open letter calling for products developed through new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) to be regulated under current GMO guidelines.

- Ireland's minister for communications, climate action and environment announced that the Cabinet had approved a measure enabling an "opt out" from GM crop cultivation under the EU Directive 2015/412. The minister added that the move would enhance Ireland's reputation as a green and sustainable food producer. **See more**
- German and Austrian grocers, including Lidl and EDEKA, issued an open letter calling on regulators to ensure that products developed through NBTs be regulated under current GMO laws. The groups also said that products developed through methods such as CRISPR, TALEN and zinc finger nucleases should be labeled and tracked throughout the food production process. **See more**
- India's *Mint* reported that a committee set up to investigate the use of illegal, herbicide-tolerant cotton varieties had found nearly 15 percent of 2017 cotton was unapproved. The Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) added that this was significantly higher than initial estimates. The committee's report added that the seeds were not genetically similar to ones being developed by Mahyco, thus indicating that it had not been a deliberate release by the company. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: FDA announces agenda for its July 12 public meeting, "Foods Produced Using Animal Cell Culture Technology," including detailed list of speakers, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb will make opening remarks

News: Politico Pro reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb will open the agency's July 12 public meeting on lab-grown animal products, highlights debate over whether FDA or USDA has jurisdiction

Commentary: Jenn Sinrich of Parents magazine examines whether GMOs in food are safe for babies, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, but notes nutritionist claims about potential negative impact of GMOs on the gut microbiome

Commentary: National Milk Producers Federation Peel Back the Label campaign case study says McCormick's GMO-free gourmet line of spices ignores that no GM spices are on the market, seeks only to spice up sales

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by U.K. farm manager who volunteers with Global Farmer Network discussing consequences when biotechnology innovations restricted, including crop biotech pesticide tools such as glyphosate, neonics

News: Drovers reports on report from Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) on science of gene editing, its potential applications and challenges; notes that no GM method, including conventional breeding, is without the possibility of unintended effects

More North America items

Africa

Report: African Agricultural Technology Foundation-commissioned report by Kenya University Biotechnology Consortium (KUBICO) on impact of Kenya's 2012 GMO ban, finds the ban has halted progress in ag and food security research

Video: African Centre for Biodiversity releases final video in its six-part series on the Dec. 2017 National Seed Dialogue and Celebration, with focus on need to boost smallholder autonomy in seed production, as current quality certification is designed for large companies

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Mint reports Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) launched by Prime Minister's Office found that nearly 15 percent of cotton cultivation was planted with illegal herbicide-tolerant seeds in 2017

News: Times of India reports field trials of GM mustard requested by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to evaluate impact on honeybees and soil health must wait until winter, further delaying approval for commercial release

News: Bangladesh's Daily Observer reports on conference on golden rice at Sher e Bangla Agricultural University, where agricultural scientists noted it poses no food safety risks, called for recognition as environmentally safe

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Irish Times reports on Environment Minister Denis Naughten's recommendation that Ireland opt-out of EU directive on GMOs, arguing importance of maintaining Ireland's GMO cultivation-free status, he noted it would not impact the feed sector

News: Independent (Ireland) reports on Cabinet's approval of transposition of an EU Directive, enabling Ireland to opt-out of cultivating GM crops, Environment Minister Denis Naughten noted importance of maintaining GM-free status

News: European media report on open letter by German and Austrian food companies calling on EU Commission to require full risk assessment and labeling of products of new genetic engineering methods, arguing that failure to do so would threaten non-GMO production

News release: Austrian GMO-free labeling system ARGE Gentechnik-frei announces call by Austrian and German food retailers and manufacturers for regulation of new gene technologies under current EU GE law, citing threats to organic and GMO-free production

News: Italy's Udine 20 reports on Regional Forestry Corps of Friuli Venezia Giulia's destruction of GM maize crops owned by Giorgio Fidenato, due to non-compliance with July 3 decree giving Fidenato five days to remove the crops himself

Commentary: Italian Federation of Animal and Environmental Rights Associations' online news site examines forestry agents' destruction of GM corn plots owned by Giorgio Fidenato, highlights his frustration that Spanish farmers can grow GMOs while he cannot

News: Italy's Il Friuli reports on regional secretary of Italian Left, Marco Duriavig's statement praising forestry agents for destroying GM corn fields owned by Giorgio Fidenato, arguing that GMOs threaten

quality of agriculture and ecosystems

News: Portugal's Lusa reports on Green party's (ENP) introduction of bill to ban cultivation of GM crops, citing risks to human health and the environment, especially biodiversity loss and contamination

Commentary: Spokesman for German Green parliamentary group on genetic engineering Harald Ebner calls on the party to defend careful regulation of new GE methods, argues even small DNA changes can have enormous effects

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Monsanto is considering appealing Brazilian court's ruling ordering it to deposit Intacta RR2 Pro soy seed royalties in an escrow account, pending outcome of patent dispute litigation with Brazilian soy growers

Commentary: Ricardo Balderas of Mexico's Ecoportal voices concern about transgenic seed contamination in the country, highlights struggles of indigenous communities to fight human rights violations and dispossession of indigenous lands, including legal action

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Geologist Jacob Anderson writes for New Zealand Herald, weighs in on controversy surrounding Air NZ's decision to serve the Impossible Burger, highlights potential for synthetic meat to reduce environmental impact of agriculture

Letter to the editor: Whangarei resident writes to Northland Age, calls on Air New Zealand to stop serving the Impossible Burger, argues the GE soy leghemoglobin has no proven track record of safety

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a new study published by a Flinders University researcher who claimed that a diet of GM maize caused inflammation in test rats. In Europe, a European Ideas Lab meeting in Austria to discuss new technologies included presentations against new plant breeding techniques.

- Researcher Judy A. Carman, who had previously released a study claiming that a diet of GM feed caused inflammation in pigs, issued new research claiming that rats showed stomach inflammation on a diet of Bt maize. The report was amplified by activist group GMWatch. **See more**
- Austrian news outlets reported on the weekend's European Ideas Lab, a meeting organized by the Greens/European Free Alliance to review disruptive technologies. During the event, MEP Thomas Waitz and campaigner Juliette Leroux criticized new plant breeding techniques, claiming that the region could allow "backdoor" GMOs if it allowed NBTs. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, promotes study by University of Bath and Cardiff University scientists on developing a way of turning off a gene drive, emphasizes potential importance of the technology in fighting malaria

Commentary: International Food Policy Research Institute's Tewodaj Mogues writes for CNN opinion, voices concerns about Trump administration's plans to withdraw from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, notes benefits of ag technologies usually take a long time to materialize

More North America items

Africa

News: Inter Press Service reports on Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa's (AGRA) call for giving African farmers access to improved seed technology to help mitigate drought conditions, decrying lack of local private seed-producing companies across Africa

News: Kenya's The Star reports on "Food Evolution" director Scott Kennedy's upcoming visit to East Africa for free screenings of the documentary, hosted by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa project, with goal of raising understanding

News release: Consumers International recently hosted workshop in Accra, Ghana from June 4-5 as part of wider U.N. FAO project on making food systems more sustainable, highlights plans for study on how consumers organizations can transform food systems

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Shin Chang-seop of Korea's iCOOP promotes Korea-U.S. International Symposium on consumer rights and GMO labeling, following Cheong Wa Dae's official response to petition calling for mandatory labeling

Commentary: Colin Todhunter blames India's agrarian crisis on promotion of U.S. corporate interests, claims use of GM crops and pesticides have harmed soil health, promotes smallholder operations and agroecology

More Asia items

Europe

News: Austrian news outlet reports on recent European Ideas Lab event, initiated by Styrian Green MEP Thomas Waitz, topics included genetic engineering

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance hosts European Ideas Lab from July 5-6, 2-18, includes workshop entitled "New Biotechnologies: GMOs May Flood the EU By the Backdoor," with Thomas Waitz, MEP and Juliette Leroux, Greens/EFA Campaigner on GMOs

News: Feed Navigator reports on Polish Ag Ministry's draft amendment extending implementation of a ban on GM feed ingredients, set to go into effect this year, until 2024, Poland's law contradicts EU law blocking member states from banning trade and use of GM food and feed

Commentary: German anti-GMO news site amplifies Environment Ministry survey which found that 79 percent of Germans agree that GE should be banned in agriculture, 93 percent agreed that food from animals given GM feed should be labeled

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

Study: Study in Food and Nutrition Sciences by Australian research team, including Judy Carman, finds that GM insect-resistant and herbicide tolerant maize may have an effect on rat stomach mucosa, with potential health implications

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies study led by Australian research team, including Judy Carman of Institute of Health and Environmental Research, which found that rats fed GM insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant maize developed "leaky" stomachs

News: Australia's Stock Journal reports South Australia state gov't promises independent review on quantitative benefit of prohibiting GM crop cultivation, Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister Tim Whetstone noted it will not be based on idiology

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports on CropLife Australia CEO Matthew Cossey's statement welcoming two reports by ISAAA and PG Economics demonstrating economic and environmental benefits of GMOs, noting it reflects reasons for continued growth of GM crops in Australia

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 9, 2018
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 4:01:32 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A wave of French media coverage emerged last week detailing how new studies have invalidated Gilles-Éric Séralini's 2012 research claiming a link between genetically modified corn and cancer. Our Favorable Outcomes newsletter starts by highlighting the first of those articles, written by Cecile Thibert of *Le Figaro*. We also have included economist Gérard Kafadaroff's take, in addition to a link to broader coverage in the What's Trending section.

Other articles take a closer look at a Roundup cancer claim lawsuit, the activist group SumOfUs and its tactics and a change of heart for a former biotechnology opponent in Ghana.

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Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Thousand Currents

Thousand Currents, formerly IDEX, is a leading player in the global movement to adopt pesticide- and GMO-eschewing agroecology development policies.

Thousand Currents president Rajasvini Bhansali, also a board member of Greenpeace, serves

Stories Worth Sharing

Cecile Thibert: New study invalidates Séralini claims that genetically modified corn caused tumors

Angela Logomasini: Roundup cancer claim should be dismissed because "no court of law" should take IARC reviews seriously

Alex Berezow: Live Science harms reputation by publishing anti-pesticide fearmongering

Joy: Former Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana president changes stance, declares GMOs safe

EurActiv: Brussels lobbyist sees environmental NGOs holding more power than even European Food Safety Authority

David Zaruk: SumOfUs anti-pesticide campaigns "squeezing the innocent and confused for every nickel and dime they can get"

Gérard Kafadaroff: Media failed to inform public that Séralini glyphosate study didn't meet scientific standards

Tim Durham: Despite "decades-long track record of safety," GM crops treated harshly by regulators

Richard Roberts: GMOs can make a real difference in the lives of the world's poor

as a key advisor to the AgroEcology Fund and other donor groups that have committed $500 million to promoting this agenda with government and international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Learn more about Thousand Currents HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Nick Saik: CRISPR is faster, cheaper and higher quality than other techniques for gene editing

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Proposed regulation in Brazil draws concern about rolling back pesticide approval requirements

French media highlight studies invalidating Seralini risk claims about GM crops, glyphosate

Trial begins in California lawsuit claiming Roundup causes cancer

Convention on Biological Diversity science advisers discuss synthetic biology at Montreal meeting

Calendar highlights

July 10-12	July 11-13	July 13-15
One Water Summit	Heartland Apicultural Society conference	Slow Food Nations Festival
July 15-18	**July 16-19**	**July 17**
Institute of Food Technologists annual expo	World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	Hearing on U.S. EPA science censorship rule

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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

Bonus Eventus community
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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 survey by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation finding a majority support a GMO ban in the country, although the survey had some contradictory elements. The International Institute for Sustainable Development provided updates on a meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity scientific advisers in Montreal.

- A German government survey found 79 percent of respondents favor banning GM crop cultivation. However, the survey also found 93 percent favor commercializing food from animals that eat GM feed while 40 percent believe genetic engineering is important to feed the world. Environment Minister Svenja Schulze said, "We finally need uniform regulations nationwide to ban the cultivation of GM crops." **See more**
- The IISD reported on the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, noting delegates directed an ad hoc committee to analyze emerging issues for synthetic biology as a priority. Delegates also called for established measures to minimize GM organisms' exposure to the environment. **See more**

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: Peel Back the Label campaign case study on Tropicana orange juice criticizes brand for using Non-GMO Project label when there is no GM alternative, calls the label "pulp fiction"

Commentary: Western Producer reporter notes unapproved GM wheat discovery in Alberta wasn't health or environmental threat, but it disrupted trade, points out with gene editing innovation pace will make it impossible for regs to keep up, forcing transition to system protecting against risk without trade interference

News: Manitoba Co-operator reports National Farmers Union official surprised GM wheat field trials continuing, although no GM wheat in production; notes NFU wants specific locations so farmers can look out for escapes

Commentary: Moms Across America welcome page urges parents to go organic, oppose GMOs and Roundup, urges parents to caution others about GMOs and toxins, warns of exposure to toxins through chemical exposure, vaccines, pollutants

Video: The Kloons sketch comedy team satirizes out-of-control food labels with supermarket skit around cereal festooned with various claims including non-GMO, hormone-free, raw, vegan, cruelty-free, Beyonce-endorsed, flavor-free

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association claims cotton may be "dirtiest" crop on Earth because of pesticides sprayed on it, large percentage grown with GMO seed, lists nine reasons to buy products made from organic cotton, such as reducing exposure to hazardous pesticides, supporting regenerative ag

More North America items

Africa

News: Zimbabwe news site reports Corteva launched innovative seed technology, crop protection, and digital agriculture ventures intended to increase yields in the country, will offer solution to fall armyworm

News: African news site reports former Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana president says GMOs are not dangerous, opposes official stance of farmer group that he led

News: Ugandan news site reports Ethiopia does about face on GMOs, approves two Bt cotton varieties and begins GM maize field trials to help fight drought, crop disease

Commentary: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications blog emphasizes benefits of Bt cotton for Sudan, where farmers say cotton providing boost in living standards because of higher yields, no pesticide costs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian economic news site writer who attended Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting, notes Nobel laureate Richard Roberts seeks to get out truth on GMOs, involved other Nobel laureates because they aren't supported by industry,

News: Indian news site questions if Narenda Modi's plan to use biotech crops to improve farmer income, notes success Bangladesh is having with GM crops but India is reluctant to adopt the technology

Commentary: Baker writes history of wheat for Jerusalem Post, claims genetically engineered wheat makes it possible to use pesticides without harming wheat, and genetic engineering and hybridization improve quality and yields, says opponents are indignant humans being used as guinea pigs for agro-technology

Event: International Rice Research Institute announces public consultations on proposed field trials for Golden Rice set for July 18 and July 20 at two locations in Philippines

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news site Spiegel reports Ministry of Environment poll shows 79 percent of Germans want GMO ban, but 40 percent say GMOs are important to feed the world, notes EU court to decide whether gene-edited products should be regulated as GMOs

News: German news site reports Green Party science minister Theresia Bauer calls for change in party platform to support gene editing, says Greens can no longer miss opportunities, stirs up controversy questioning ideology central to party's identity

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Germany announces 21 NGOs call for regulating and labeling gene-edited products, says safety of new breeding techniques is unproven

Commentary: U.K. lecturer, professor write on Conversation that gene drives have great power to affect species, but extreme caution is needed due to difficulty in predicting environmental outcomes, suggests making altered genes switchable

News: Italian news site reports vandals damage Giorgio Fidenato's GM corn field overnight, notes the pro-biotech farmer decides to file complaint

News: French pro-ag site Alerte-Environnement reports public perception of GMOs blurred by

invalidated study by anti-GMO activist Seralini that claimed GMOs caused cancer; notes media manipulated into not seeking independent opinions before publishing

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's National Society of Agriculture quotes former coordinator of Agriculture Ministry saying doubts about safety of GM foods unresolved, despite 2016 letter by Nobel Prize laureates supporting safety of GMOs, citing strong pressure on National Congress of Brazil to withdraw GMO labels on food packaging

Commentary: Mexico's Neuva Mujer lists 10 facts that will make readers proud that Alvarez-Buylla is new Conacyt director, including fact she opposes GM crop cultivation

News: Mexican news site reports new President AMLO's cabinet includes Agriculture Secretary, who was criticized for supporting 2004 biodiversity law that allowed GMO cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian travel news site reports Air New Zealand defends decision to serve plant-based Impossible Burger, gives vegan customers a choice, spends millions on meat raised in New Zealand

News release: GE-Free New Zealand claims GE Impossible Burger's legality because it "escaped safety regulation;" says Air New Zealand serving the food on flights sidesteps safety regulations and uses passengers as guinea pigs

Commentary: New Zealand-based computational biologist argues the Impossible Burger is not genetically modified, notes genetically engineered yeast makes one ingredient used in the product, urges examining the product rather than method used to create it

More Oceania items

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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

Mid-week global biotechnology developments included a round of French news reports summarizing recent efforts disproving the work of an anti-biotechnology researcher. New Zealand news outlets covered a statement by the acting prime minister, who criticized the country's flagship airline for promoting the lab-cultured "Impossible Burger." Activists responded to the ongoing meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), highlighting concerns about the use of synthetic biology and gene drives.

- A Wednesday report in *Le Figaro* highlighted the results of the EU's recent GRACE, G-TwYST and GMO-90+ studies that sought to re-examine whether GM maize and glyphosate could be linked to cancer in lab animals, concluding that French researcher Gilles-Éric Séralini had manipulated the media and consumers. The article prompted a wave of response in French news outlets; in an interview with *L'Obs*, Séralini claimed that the EU researchers were distorting the data and making "dishonest" conclusions. **See more**
- *NZ Farmer* reported that New Zealand Acting Prime Minister Winston Peters criticized Air New Zealand for its campaign highlighting the availability of a meat-free "Impossible Burger" on select flights. Peters argued that the airline has received significant taxpayer funding and should instead be focused on promoting the local meat industry. The news was amplified in other local and international media outlets. **See more**
- Activists continued to weigh in on the discussions surrounding synthetic biology and gene drives taking place during the SBSTTA 22 in Montreal. ETC Group claimed that the Canadian government had denied a visa to an African activist critical of the use of GM mosquitoes to control malaria. Reporting on the meeting from the International Institute of Sustainable Development noted that the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, Union paysanne, Friends of the Earth and ETC Group all presented objections to the technology. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: NGO ETC Group says leading African biodiversity expert denied Canadian visa, misses UN forum, quotes Ali Tapsoba saying she was prevented from attending Convention on Biological Diversity meeting due to her opposition to gene drives, which group claims threatens biodiversity

News: NGO International Institute for Sustainable Development reports on CBD meeting, notes Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand call for product-based risk assessments on LMOs; countries call for more research, additional protocol on synthetic biology, gene drives

Commentary: Justin Cremer of Cornell Alliance for Science examines disagreement between food industry and farmer groups over USDA's proposed GMO labeling requirements, Nestle, Hershey, Unilever and GMA want labeling of refined products, American Sugar Beets Association objects

Commentary: French-Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM ridicules USDA's proposed labeling rules, proposed logos, notes products such as oil made from GMOs might not be labeled, points out Canada still has no GM labeling requirement

News release: National Corn Growers Association submitted comments on USDA's proposed Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard, NCGA pointed out some options under consideration that could potentially harm U.S. agriculture and stifle farming innovation

Announcement: Environmental Working Group wrote comments to USDA on its proposed GMO labeling rule, calls for labeling of all products with ingredients derived from GMOs, including highly refined ingredients, as well as products of gene editing

News release: Friends of the Earth, along with several other consumer, environmental and farming NGOs, submitted comments to USDA on its proposed GMO labeling disclosure rules, voices opposition to use of QR codes, calls for labeling of refined ingredients

News release: American Soybean Association filed comments with USDA regarding proposed bioengineered food disclosure rule, calls for adherence to the statutory definition of bioengineering, advocates a five percent threshold for mandatory disclosure

Announcement: Non-GMO Project announces publication of brief report on public understanding and usage of terms related to GMOs, finds USDA's proposed disclosure terminology would confuse and mislead consumers

Commentary: Michigan newspaper op-ed by Center for Consumer Freedom's Rick Berman finds irony in Environmental Working Group, anti-GMO groups backing lab-grown meat when FDA, American Heart Association find ingredients questionable

Commentary: Ecological anthropologist acknowledges science denial dangers, but says "science imperialism" that ignores ethics, social impacts are equally dangerous, cites "Food Evolution" documentary, disputes there is consensus on GMO safety

News: The Western Producer reports corporate head of agriculture for Nestle tells food security conference consumers must be convinced of safety of innovations such as GM foods; warns consumer resistance could lead to trade barriers

Announcement: Green America seeks Food Campaigns Director to educate public about problems with industrialization of food, importance of regenerative, non-GMO, organic foods, need for action to take back food supply to protect health, environment

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news site reports former peasant farmers association president reverses position, declares GMO food safe for human consumption; notes association continues to claim GMOs carcinogenic

News: Ghana News Agency reports researcher tells journalists during training session that biotech crops can increase food quality, safety, and production while increasing farmer income

News: Ghanaian farmer says country's delay in GMO approval is injustice to Ghana's farmers, says biotech offers seeds resistant to drought and pests, says activists should be ignored when their opinion differs from scientists and farmers

News: Food Business Africa reports Ghana's leading research institute endorses use of biotechnology, considers it vital to enhance food security; adds Ghana's food insecurity due to inferior seeds, traditional agricultural practices, competition for land use and climate change

Commentary: Doctoral student writing in South African farming newspaper suggests African stem borer developed resistance to Bt-maize because insufficient Bt toxins existed in plants, resistance grew in small borer population

Video: GMO-Free Zone South Africa shares brief clip of its video-making process on Facebook, ahead of releasing an introductory video on the campaign

Commentary: Nigerian news site editor says genetic engineering could help propel Nigerian cattle market to become beef production powerhouse

Commentary: Marta Gatti of Belgian NGO Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debts amplifies report by Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition warning African nations against GM crop adoption, highlighting Bt cotton in Burkina Faso

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces results of survey on GM ag products, finding that 2.7 million tons were imported in the last five years, reiterates call on gov't to improve the GMO labeling system

News: Reuters reports on China's plans to launch month-long inspection of cooking oil labels, beginning on Dec. 21, to ensure that GM cooking oils are properly labeled following media reports of false labeling of GM soy oil as non-GMO in Fujian province

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news site reports Seralini says studies that debunk his GM corn and pesticide study were biased and intended to discredit him

News: French edition of Slate reporter says in retrospect "small and sad media staging" on Seralini study had disproportionate political effect, points out three studies now disprove Seralini's conclusions

News: French news site reports Seralini criticizes GRACE risk assessment that disproves his conclusions that GMO, Roundup are carcinogens, accuses researchers of "methodological dishonesty," distorted data

Interview: French toxicologist Bernard Salles tells French health TV show that research invalidates Seralini's conclusions on GM corn study, points out Seralini used too few rats, and used breed highly susceptible to spontaneous cancer

News: Le Figaro premium report claims Seralini manipulated perception of GM corn study, attributing media reporting to worldwide spread of his research conclusions

News: U.K.'s Farmers Guardian reports economic analyst described agriculture as hi-tech industry needing hi-tech solutions, including agri-biotechnology in aftermath of Brexit

Commentary: Bayer managing director refutes Green Party Bundestag member's points against gene editing techniques, notes she offers no scientific reasoning; points out gene editing helps solve vital agricultural issues, increases productivity, can eliminate allergens, help mitigate climate change

News release: German NGO Deutscher Naturschutring notes upcoming EU court decision on genome editing, joins other German NGOs in urging federal government to use precautionary principle regarding gene-edited products

News release: Austrian NGO Arche Noah argues products of new breeding techniques should not be authorized without full risk assessments, claiming that new breeding techniques are not as safe and precise as seed companies promote

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Radio France Internationale notes Argentina successfully banked on GMOs, becoming top producer and exporter of maize, soy, cotton, but questions the social and environmental costs

News: Mexican newspaper reports President-elect Lopez Obrador will select anti-GM scientist to head National Council of Science, Technology; notes scientist's concern with ethics of commercializing

agriculture through transgenic crops

News: Costa Rica news site reports ecologists, academics demand GMO labeling in foods for humans, animals; group sends letter to President Carlos Alvarado, government departments; Alvarado had promised enforcement during campaign

Campaign: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) solicits applications for business incubation (due July 13) to inform new product development for biological pest control, ag inputs/processes

News: Brazilian news site claims multinational agribusinesses use economic, political power to force dependence on GM crops in Brazil, abandon agroecology practices; agroecology group official says the monopolies decrease biodiversity through monocultures

News: Reuters reports Brazilian court orders Monsanto to deposit royalties in escrow pending court decision on Brazilian farmers' suit over GM soy patent validity

News: Reuters reports a Brazilian judge ordered units of Monsanto to deposit royalties related to Intacta RR2 pro GM soybean seed technology, amid patent dispute between Monsanto and Brazilian soybean growers

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand news site editorial notes Air New Zealand can't hold back tide of lab-grown or plant-based meats, just gives customers what they want, but politicians see airline as letting down their team

Commentary: New Zealand news site columnist says Air NZ decision to serve 'Impossible Burger' brings GE plant-based meat debate to light, noting meat industry's opposition, argues plant-based meat could be answer to unsustainibility of traditional meat production from animals

News: CNN reports New Zealand Prime Minister Winston Peters says he's opposed to "fake beef," says Air New Zealand should promote country's produce rather than Impossible Burger; airline says it makes no apology for offering innovative product choices for customers

News: The Guardian reports New Zealand MP criticizes Air New Zealand for serving Impossible Burger, says GM burger is "existential threat" to country's beef industry; notes Twitter response points out industry should not put "head in sand" and ignore synbio technology

News: New Zealand Herald reports MP Mark Patterson derides Air New Zealand for serving Impossible Burger, says it is threat to New Zealand's meat industry, calls it a "slap in the face" to New Zealand's red meat producers

More Oceania items

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Latest updates online

Independence Day

Due to the U.S. Independence Day holiday, your Global Biotech Snapshot will not be delivered today. For the latest monitoring updates, please click the link below.

BIOTECH UPDATES

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a joint statement from German NGOs, who called for the European Union to adopt a "precautionary" approach to products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In the U.S., activists and food companies weighed in on a federal GMO disclosure standard as the comment period closed.

- A coalition of 21 German organic food producers and environmental activists issued a joint statement calling on German MEPs to enforce a strict precautionary standard on foods and crops produced through NBTs. The groups noted that the European Court of Justice was expected to render a decision on some of these techniques by the end of July but said that the German coalition government had already committed to maintain current GMO guidelines. **See more**
- U.S. activists issued a last flurry of calls for supporters to weigh in on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed standards for labeling foods with ingredients produced through genetic engineering. Environmental Working Group, Friends of the Earth, Center for Food Safety and others highlighted "loopholes" for highly processed ingredients such as sugars and oils. *Reuters* and *Food Navigator* reported that food manufacturers Nestle and Hershey and the Grocery Manufacturers Association had commented on the measure and noted that these exceptions would undermine consumer trust. **See more**

Due to the U.S. Independence Day holiday, your next biotechnology snapshot will be sent on Thursday, July 5. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

News: Reuters reports Nestle, Hershey commented on U.S. government plans to label GE food ingredients, pitting food companies against farmers of crops such as beet sugar; food companies supporting GMO labeling, while farmers want to exclude processed ingredients

News release: Friends of the Earth joins Center for Food Safety, groups submitting comments to USDA on proposed regulations for mandatory disclosure of foods produced using genetic engineering; CFS argues against use of QR codes as burdensome on consumers, objects to "bioengineered" term

News release: Center for Food Safety, along with several other consumer, environmental, and farming organizations and companies submitted comments to USDA demanding strong GMO food labeling standards, voicing opposition to use of QR codes

Campaign: Carolina Farm Stewardship Association calls on supporters to submit comments to USDA demanding clear GMO labels prior to July 3 deadline, calling for use of more familiar terms, and for mandatory labeling of products of gene editing

Commentary: Western Producer editorial questions delay in Canadian Food Inspection Agency's public disclosure of its discovery of unauthorized GM wheat in Alberta, emphasizing importance of timely disclosure to maintain buyers' trust

Commentary: Lizz Schumer of The New York Times examines various food labels, advising readers on which ones to ignore and which ones to pay attention to, notes GMOs are not necessarily bad, examining how people are scared because they don't know what it means

More North America items

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina denounces corporate influence in Convention on Biological Diversity, demands that govt's prohibit release of gene drives, it will be present to oppose transnational corporations and their policies

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports cotton industry stakeholders call on gov't to begin trials on GM Bt cotton to control bollworm pest, currently controlled with expensive pesticides

More Africa items

Asia

News: Japanese news source reports Japan-Korea-Taiwan Non-GMO Asia Forum established, with citizens groups in three countries planning to coordinate actions, also reports outdoor trial cultivation of new genome-edited rice begins in Japan, supposed to be simply experiment to demonstrate technology

News: Vietnam's Baomoi reports Department of Crop Production statistics show GMO maize production increasing but still only 3 percent of country's total corn area, notes GMO maize considered pest-resistant and can help reduce import pressure, but mechanisms needed to accelerate planting area

News: Vietnamese news source reports from workshop organized by USDA, CropLife Vietnam on "Application of GM Crops - Status and Development Potential," with area of GMO maize allowed to be commercially grown increasing by 125 percent from 2015 to 2017

News: SciDevNet amplifies ISAAA Biotech Update report finding spread of "counterfeit" GM corn seeds in Philippines cutting farmers' profits, productivity, posing threat to environment; nation's area of licensed GM corn fell 21 percent in 2017, despite 11 percent expansion in total area planted in corn

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany's Federal Association of Natural Food Natural Products (BNN) announces resolution along with other association calling on EU to regulate new GE methods under the Genetic Engineering Act, noting responsibility to protect consumers

News release: Organic certifier Demeter announces it sent resolution to politicians calling for consistent application of existing GM legislation to products of new GE techniques, highlighting possibility of unplanned effects

News release: Germany's Federation of Organic Food Industry (BÖLW) joins group of 21 NGOs demanding regulation and labeling of new genetic engineering methods, calling on MEPs to apply the precautionary principle

News release: German Working Group on Rural Agriculture (AbL) calls for regulation of new genetic engineering methods under current laws, arguing that increased precision is not certain, pointing to possibility of unintended effects

News release: Swiss NGO Public Eye joins other groups in asking states involved in negotiation of FTA between Mercosur and EFTA to allow transparency of negotiations, carry out sustainability impact assessment, warns strengthening intellectual property rights would risk privatizing seeds

Announcement: EFSA announces its risk assessment on Monsanto's Bt glyphosate-tolerant maize variety finds no safety concerns or nutritional difference from its conventional counterpart, concludes it does not pose environmental safety concerns

Commentary: France's Alerte Environnement criticizes Volunteer Reapers' recent protest agaisnt ENS in Lyon and INRA's Reproduction and Plant Development Laboratory against the Genius Project, highlights efforts to make the project as transparent as possible

News release: Spanish Green Party announces conference in EU Parliament entitled "Fighting Ecological Crimes," where deputy Florent Marcellesi called for a regulatory framework to fight such crimes, emulating the Monsanto Tribunal to hold companies accountable

Commentary: In opinion article in Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture, Rothamsted Research's Nigel Halford calls for change in EU's approach to GM regulations, noting shortcomings of the process-based approach as new gene editing techniques arise

Interview: Global Engage interviews University of Reading professor Jim Dunwell on regulatory implications for gene-edited crops, ahead of expected EU Court of Justice ruling, he highlights potential financial obstacles associated with strict regulation

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news source reports peasants group warns more than 60 percent of agricultural production in Santa Cruz region uses transgenic seeds, claims seeds imported illegally from Brazil and Argentina despite ban that exists for GM corn, soybeans and wheat, calls for stopping production of GM crops

Commentary: Friends of the Earth International's Radio Mundo Real examines call by various environmental and academic organizations on Costa Rica's president to fulfil pre-electoral promises of mandatory GMO labeling

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included international reporting on a recent Nobel laureates event, where Sir Richard Roberts highlighted the benefits of agricultural biotechnology. New Zealand's outgoing science minister similarly called for rethinking opposition to the technology.

- News outlets in Argentina, China and Germany highlighted statements by Sir Richard Roberts, who spoke at a meeting of Nobel laureates held in Lindau, Germany. Roberts discussed his 2016 campaign, signed by over 100 Nobel laureates, which called for environmental groups such as Greenpeace to rethink their positions critical of agricultural biotechnology. **See more**
- In New Zealand, outgoing science adviser Sir Peter Gluckman told the *New Zealand Herald* over the weekend that GM crops had been extensively studied and no environmental or health concerns had been identified. The statement generated a round of amplification across local media outlets. In a radio interview, GE-Free New Zealand representative Jon Carapiet said more, not less, regulation is needed on GM crops and products of new plant breeding techniques. **See more**

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: Wired's Joi Ito examines six stages of development of artificial meat, includes Impossible Burger's use of GE heme, expresses excitement at potential use of algae, kelp and fungi to convert renewable energy into calories

Commentary: Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst writes for local news outlet, examines state bill banning labeling meat substitutes as meat, notes opposition to the bill came from groups that also supported mandatory GMO labeling

Commentary: Cathy Siegner of Food Dive examines Friends of the Earth's report on whether sufficient research has been carried out to establish the safety of lab-grown meat, says the report is surprising as FoE frequently supports new sustainable technologies

News: AgInfo Network reports on University of Vermont study finding GMO labels actually decreased consumer fears, with another study finding only about half of those surveyed had health concerns when shown GMO labels

News: Washington, D.C. radio outlet reports on USDA's proposed symbols for GMO food disclosures one day ahead of public comment deadline, highlights International Food Information Council Foundation (IFIC) study on consumer reactions to the labels

Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas voices excitement that USDA will not regulate CRISPR as GMOs, he explains the CRISPR gene editing process, highlighting increased precision, notes that CRISPR is faster, cheaper and higher quality than other techniques

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Ethiopia's progress in GM crop adoption, highlighting its recent approval of commercial use of Bt cotton and field research on GM maize

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa announces upcoming African Food Systems Conference in Cameroon, Nov. 3-5, 2018, with goal of launching an action plan and declaration for better food systems geared towards the public and policymakers

News release: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Authority announces public display of application for importation of GM herbicide-tolerant soybean for edible oil processing, NBMA will receive public comments through July 20

More Africa items

Asia

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on economic benefits of rising GM maize adoption in the country, in a recent seminar organized by CropLife Vietnam and USDA it was revealed that GM maize area in 2017 reached 28,500.1 ha, more than double the area in 2015

Commentary: Science Magazine runs article by international group of academics arguing Convention on Biological Diversity has effect of curtailing biodiversity research in some countries, weakening international cooperation, suggest ways to create regulatory environment promoting biodiversity

Commentary: Pakistan Observer editorial argues regulations on low-level presence of GMOs are necessary to continue imports and avoid trade disruptions, noting 100 percent purity is impossible, highlights accepted policies for developers

News: Xinhua profiles Syngenta scientist Ian Jepson, highlights his work to develop high-yielding, sustainable crops, highlights implications for the environment and food security, examines Syngenta's acquisition by ChemChina

More Asia items

Europe

News: Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reports on Nobel Laureate Meeting's focus on genetic engineering, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, and Sir Richard Roberts' ongoing criticism of GM opponents

Commentary: German Green party spokeswoman for nutrition policy Renate Künast weighs in on debate on genetic engineering, opposes embracing CRISPR as a solution, points to potential unintended consequences, promotes small farmers and agroecology

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies paper in Journal of Biological Physics and Chemistry by Eva Novotny, who examines the events leading to retraction of Seralini's GM rat feed study, and claims that Monsanto colluded with the journal's editor-in-chief

Commentary: Pro-GMO Spanish NGO Fundaction Antama discusses non-agricultural applications of GM plants, while citing development of such GM foods as golden rice, Arctic apples; non-ag applications could include phytoremediation, Glowing Plant project, plants that can detect anti-personnel mines

News release: Agri Holland runs release from Committee for Genetic Modification warning activities with GM Schrenkiella parvula should require measures taken to prevent seed dispersal; COGEM considers risks to humans, environment when working with GM plant negligible

Interview: France's Atlantico interviews Bayer's Franck Garnier, he discusses the Monsanto acquisition, dispels several myths about safety of GMOs and glyphosate, highlights importance of glyphosate for no-till systems, notes terminator seeds don't exist

Commentary: GenØk - Centre for Biosafety amplifies chapter in "Professionals in food chain" book arguing that gene-edited plants and animals should be assessed on sustainability, ethical and societal impacts prior to receiving regulatory approval

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivia's El Deber reports on gov't evaluation of pros and cons of GM corn and soybeans, Association of Oilseed and Wheat Producers president Richard Paz praised the gov't for hiring biotech expert Josué Hinojosa María Mercedes Roca

News: Mexico's Sipse reports on campaign by 50 civil organizations to gather signatures requesting declaring Quintana Roo a Transgenic Free Zone, voicing concerns about deforestation in the area, as well as negative environmental impacts of GMOs and pesticide use

More Latin America items

Oceania

Audio: New Zealand's Newstalk ZB interviews GE Free New Zealand spokesman Jon Carapiet following outgoing Chief Science Adviser Peter Gluckman's statement that GM foods are safe, he calls for more regulation, claims GMOs are not sufficiently tested in the U.S.

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on outgoing Science Adviser, Sir Peter Gluckman's call for review of stance on genetic engineering, highlights opposition to GMOs in NZ following contaminated imports of corn seed from the U.S.

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 2, 2018
Date: Monday, July 2, 2018 4:04 58 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In several of the pieces highlighted in this week's newsletter, the authors touch on the the troubling theme of what to do when scientific evidence isn't enough.

In an interview with *Xinhua*, Nobel laureate Richard Roberts suggests an effort to educate the public on "lies" that are blocking the acceptance of genetically modified crops. For *Town Hall*, Steve Sherman argues that the U.S. Congress should cut the funding of the International Agency for Research on Cancer due to its "pseudoscience" that has cast doubt on the safety of glyphosate. And *Science* magazine's Jose Dinneny writes that the takeaway message from Mark Lynas' "Seeds of Science" book is that there could be a new discussion about agricultural technology that goes beyond science and also considers feelings and moral intuitions.

Other pieces explore agricultural issues in Uganda, New Zealand and Germany as well as the role of Russian propaganda in the organic movement.

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Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Food Policy Action

Food Policy Action (FPA) is one of several registered 501(c)(3) political lobbying arms for the U.S. organic food marketing industry.

Stories Worth Sharing

Xinhua: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts calls for educational campaign disputing "lies" activists tell about GMOs

Steve Sherman: Congress should make good on funding threats, stop IARC from "churning out pseudoscience on America's dime"

Nakisanze Segawa: Uganda biosafety bill would require larger buffer than possible for most farmers between organic and GM crops

Craige MacKenzie: Time for "sensible, science-based debate" in New Zealand on new gene revolution in farming

Henry Miller: NGOs aided by Russian "propaganda machine" harass those who promote sound science on genetic engineering

Wolfgang Nellen: Green Party movement endangers Germany's future innovation in gene editing

David Alvis: David Zaruk "probably did more than anyone else" to expose anti-science lobbying on glyphosate

Zach Weigel: "Dubious" Iowa report that warns of potential for schoolchildren to be exposed to pesticides is just fear-mongering

FPA recently launched a new podcast featuring celebrity chefs critical of GMOs and conventional food production.

FPA is active lobbying on the current Farm Bill and provided financial support to defeat members of Congress who do not support the agenda of the $45 billion U.S. organic food industry.

Learn more about Food Policy Action HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Barbara Quinn: USDA report shows 99 percent of produce has no pesticide residues or safe levels; people should eat more

Jose Dinneny: Lynas book shows science-based argument was not enough to win public over on GMOs

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

USDA comment period on GMO labeling to close Tuesday

Farm bill passed by U.S. Senate praised by NGOs for having more pesticide protections than House version

ISAAA, PG Economics studies highligh continued social, environmental and economic benefits of global biotech adoption

As he leaves office, New Zealand chief science adviser says there are no environmental or health concerns with GMOs

Chemical critics Mesnage, Antoniou claim imidacloprid could act as endocrine disruptor in humans with high exposure

Colombia to use drones to apply glyphosate to eradicate coca, protect applicators

Calendar highlights

July 2-6	July 2-7	July 9-15
Codex Alimentarius Commission meets in Rome	Meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	U.K. Bees Needs Week

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued reporting on the USDA GM labeling rules before the Tuesday deadline for comments on the proposed regulations. Corporate Europe Observatory said emails obtained from the Dutch government indicate industry has undue influence on the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity.

- A report by anti-biotech NGO Corporate Europe Observatory said that the Public Research Regulation Initiative helped "manipulate crucial international biosafety talks under the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity." The NGO report indicated emails showed PRRI "coordinated circles of industry, researchers and regulators through dedicated email lists covering the main topics of the CBD and Protocols." The report noted it comes just before CBD talks on synthetic biology and gene drives, which could have global impacts on biotechnology. The report was amplified by Sustainable Pulse. **See more.**
- *Food Navigator* reported that Hershey and Unilever submitted comments regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's GM labeling rules, stating that highly refined ingredients such as sugar and oil should be labeled as "bioengineered." The companies said the disclosure is necessary if consumers are to believe food companies are being transparent. A *Bloomberg* editorial also criticized the proposed labels, saying it appears the USDA is attempting to "put a positive spin" on GMOs. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial praises arguments in favor of GMOs made by Mark Lynas in his book, "Seeds of Science," agreeing that biotech research should not be hindered by environmental activism

News: Arkansas news site reports "fake meat" caught in turf war between USDA and FDA, notes White House indicates they favor housing food regulations under one agency

News: Newsweek reports Vermont survey finding labels improve consumer GMO opinions counters recent IFIC study; U of Georgia crop professor says emotional consumer responses are more likely than logical ones

Commentary: Natural Blaze writer says Mexican meta-analysis finding DNA variations in GM and non-GMO crop varieties challenges popular "substantial equivalence" narrative of GMO industry

Commentary: Jeffrey Smith writes for Natural Awakenings magazine, encourages pet owners to switch to organic pet food, highlighting reports that pet health issues improve after removing GMOs from the diet, he highlights health risks of glyphosate, Bt toxin

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's David Di Zhang and Grant Alexander Wilson write for The Conversation, explaining their research on consumer attitudes towards GM foods, consumers were more accepting of GM foods when they perceived direct personal benefits

Commentary: Bloomberg editorial pans USDA's new labels for GM foods for trying to put upbeat spin on issue, suggests government seems unwilling to let facts speak for themselves, asserts science affirms GM foods safe, calls claims by opponents that GM crops are dangerous "baseless"

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan newspaper reports efforts to halt falling sweet potato production blocked by parliament's failure to pass biotechnology bill that will allow development of GM sweet potato resistant to pests, disease

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa releases statement that African NGOs oppose "corporate takeover" of African food systems, condemns the Bayer-Monsanto merger as it sees countries opening doors to GM crops

Commentary: Writing in Kenya's Daily Nation, U of Georgia graduate researcher says biotech would be valuable, helpful to Kenya, but has limitations, argues country needs to reform ag system to be responsive/anticipatory vs reactive

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Nobel laureate calls for educational campaign against lies spread by anti-GMO activists; says GM crops such as Golden Rice can help poor people in undeveloped countries

News: The Times of India reports farmers planting illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds to save on labor costs for weed clearing, allows farmers to use glyphosate instead

Report: Third World Network's Biosafety Information Centre announces meta-analysis that profiled phenotypic consequences of plant breeding and genetic engineering found extensive phenotypic differences between GE and non-GE cultivated plants; researchers warn such interventions may have unintended effects

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch promotes news EFSA GMO panel member will publish opinion asserting Syngenta's stacked-trait GM maize has not been proven safe, making second time panel member has challenged GMO safety

News release: Testbiotech voices concern about DowDuPont and Baysanto"growing number of patent applications for genome editing in plants, argues that a landscape shaped by patents will make it difficult for small and medium-sized breeders to survive

Report: Corporate Europe Observatory investigation finds freedom of information-retrieved emails reveal layered campaigns by Public Research Regulation Initiative, Gates Foundation to discourage passage of GMO, gene editing risk management policies, gene drive moratorium

Commentary: Far-right French EU member writing on personal blog cites recent discovery of banned GM animal feed in EU, asks what European Commission is doing to guarantee free trade agreements will prevent health risks

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Argentine news site reporter questions Nobel laureate Richard Roberts, who maintains GMOs

benefit small farmers the most but activists' misinformation scare government leaders away from using them, notes they criticize, silence scientists by linking them to corporations; says it makes no sense to avoid using better technology for ag production

News: Costa Rican news site reports ecologists and academics demand President Carlos Alvarado keep campaign promise to label GMOs

Audio: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro tells Friends of the Earth Latin America radio show that Bayer-Monsanto merger is Bayer effort to mask Monsanto criticisms while continuing to pollute planet with GMOs, pesticides

News: Mexico's El Mercurio reports on call by Independent Center for Agricultural and Peasant Workers (Cioac) in Tamaulipas asking authorities to implement process for recovering native seeds, arguing that transgenics have led to increased pest resistance

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports outgoing science advisor says country should re-open debate on GMOs because they have no environmental or health concerns

Interview: New Zealand Herald talks to prime minister's new chief science adviser, a biochemistry professor at University of Auckland; Juliet Gerrard says nation's regulatory framework for GMOs not coping well with introduction of new technologies, but fresh look at evidence already begun at Royal Society Te Aparangi

Commentary: Ewan Chapman of New Zealand law firm Duncan Cotterill examines U.S. litigation against Monsanto on alleged link between Roundup and cancer, highlights NZ Environmental Protection Authority's plans for reassessment

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announcing it is seeking public comments on its intent to amend biotechnology regulations. China's GMO panel, the National Biosafety Committee, met recently, fueling speculation it might approve GM crop varieties.

- The USDA's APHIS asked for public comments on its intent to amend biotech regulations to address new developments and stakeholder issues. The agency's statement indicated changes would focus on potential risks posed by genetically engineered products "rather than the method used to produce the product." The public comment period runs through July 30. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported the Chinese National Biosafety Committee met June 20-22, indicating that China may be preparing to approve new biotech crops for import. *Reuters* noted the meeting came "amid escalating trade tension with the United States" and that China's slow, unpredictable process for GMO approvals has been a longstanding U.S. complaint. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Impossible Foods op-ed in Medium challenges Friends of the Earth criticism of GM component of plant-based meat as anti-science propaganda that undermines its own criticism as NGO promoting sustainability

Commentary: UC Berkeley's Steven Hayward writes for Power Line blog, examines Friends of the Earth's opposition to the Impossible Burger, in spite of its potential to reduce environmental impact of beef consumption, notes FoE "hates modern living"

Announcement: USDA launches comment period on environmental impact assessment proposal for amendments to biotech regulations regarding importation, interstate movement, environmental release of GMOs

Campaign: GMO Free USA urges supporters to sign petition calling on Amazon to stop selling Arctic Apple products, highlights concerns that RNAi could have unintended negative impacts on human health and the environment

Commentary: Giovanni Tagliabue of American Council on Science and Health examines reasons why the term "GMO" is meaningless and misleading, notes it puts focus on the process rather than on safety of the product

News: Agri-Pulse reports on two surveys on how labels influence consumer acceptance of GMOs, a University of Vermont study found that simple mandatory disclosure did not increase consumer aversion, while International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation found that half of consumers voiced health concerns after seeing a BE label

Commentary: Brandon Turbeville of Natural Blaze examines growing sales of certified non-GMO products in Europe, highlights German Association Of Food Without Genetic Engineering's (VLOG) assessment that it will not have trouble meeting demand

More North America items

Africa

News release: IFPRI promotes Dakar launch of World Food Policies report, notes IFPRI Africa director commented on decline of ag investment in Africa, warning industry will decline without turnaround

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports on Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen's statement that accusations that China steals intellectual property rights and forces technological transfers are "sheer fabrications out of nothing and groundless"

News: Reuters reports on recent meeting of Chinese National Biosafety Committee, indicating that Beijing may approve new biotech crops for import, highlights escalating trade tensions with the U.S., DowDuPont, Monsanto and Bayer have products awaiting approval

Commentary: Harish Damodaran of The Indian Express examines Delhi High Court's ruling blocking Monsanto's patent on Bt cotton, notes the decision denies farmers access to technology they want to use, highlights uncertainty surrounding intellectual property

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: In French news site, agronomist and French Association of Plant Biotechnology founder discusses how science sometimes takes a back seat to politics, citing examples of GMOs and glyphosate, noting "smear campaign" and how IARC classification has been disputed by other health agencies

News: France's Le Progres reports 50 members of Volunteer Reapers gather in Lyon in effort to occupy school's laboratory for reproduction and development of plants, led by INRA; activists denounce Genius project, say it aims to prepare new GMOs without knowledge of people, plans to improve nine plants genetically

Commentary: Xavier Delwarte of Federation Inter-Environnement Wallonie amplifies Agroecology in Action's memorandum for the municipal elections, highlights recommendations to support agroecology and peasant agriculture, outlines restrictions on pesticides

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports leader of Peasants of Mexico group declares transgenic crops have damaged fields in Huasteca region through causing pests to become resistant, farmers demand government begin process to recover native seeds to be used for production of corn and beans

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on unpublished data released by International Service for Acquisition of Agrobiotechnology Applications (ISAAA) indicating that Brazil has 26 percent of the total world area cultivated with GM crops, with 50.2 million hectares in 2017

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian grain news source editor says Japan, Korea bans on Canadian wheat due to concerns of GMO contamination is lesson to country of the importance of biosecurity

Commentary: New Zealand's Dairy News runs op-ed by co-chair of Primary Land Users Group countering arguments by opponents that farming hurts environment, warning that if activists succeed in pastoral farming, they might have to support production of GM food grown in laboratories

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 9:02:27 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 two new reports examining GMO labeling in the U.S., each offering a different take on consumer responses to the policy. The European wing of advocacy group La Via Campesina called for strict regulation of gene-editing techniques, in advance of an expected court decision.

- The International Food Information Council announced a new survey finding that consumers presented with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recommended "bioengineered" label noted more health concerns that those who were not prompted with a label. The results contrasted with a study released today, which found that consumers in Vermont reported less concern over GM foods following the state's passage of a GMO labeling law. **See more**
- Anticipating a decision from the European Court of Justice, scheduled for late July, the European Coordination Via Campesina called on EU regulators to ensure that "new GMOs" do not escape the region's existing biotechnology assessments. The group claimed that the biotechnology industry was using technical language to hide that gene-editing techniques result in unintended side effects and mutations. **See more**

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North America

News release: International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation announces results of survey on USDA's proposed bioengineered food disclosure labels, 50 percent of participants voiced human health concerns when shown the BE "plant" symbol

Commentary: Food Dive's Cathy Siegner examines International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation's survey on consumer reactions to USDA's proposed GM food disclosure labels, notes manufacturers would be wise to address consumer health concerns

News: U.S. news outlets report on Vermont study finding that GMO labels may be increasing support for GMOs; The Atlantic says that with GM labels consumers may believe food producers have nothing to hide, but adds that study had limitations

Study: Science magazine posts abstract from University of Vermont, University of Purdue study showing 19 percent drop in opposition to GE food due to mandatory GM labeling law

Commentary: Teen Vogue site says federal GMO labels won't be "fully transparent," notes "bioengineered" term, exemptions from labeling; notes some believe GMOs harm health, but scientific consensus is that GMOs are safe

Commentary: Applegate Natural & Organic Meats president writes open letter to USDA stating consumers have right to know about food they buy, says USDA must write regulations to cover all GM food as Congress intended, objects to QR codes, "bioengineered" term

Commentary: Joan Conrow writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes "Seeds of Science" author Mark Lynas changed mind on GMOs through honest introspection, changed from anti-GMO activist to GMO

advocate, points out book analyzes dynamics that drive people to adopt rigid ideologies

Campaign: C-BAN advocates for ban on field testing GM crops outdoors due to unapproved GM wheat discovery in Alberta, subsequent export freeze by Japan, South Korea

Commentary: Kevin Folta debunks activist claims Golden Rice will not help fight vitamin A deprivation, points out FDA clarified statement regarding nutrition concerned US consumption rates, not countries where rice is dietary staple

Commentary: Hank Campbell of Science 2.0 criticizes Organic Consumers Association and U.S. Right to Know's attacks on Mark Lynas, praises Lynas for examining the facts and changing his mind on GMOs, points to hypocrisy in organic industry groups

Commentary: Former Kansas congressman, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research founder writes that world population growth, national security demands U.S. remain leader in agricultural research, but is falling behind China

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity claims claims made to promote WEMA Bt maize and fall armyworm are unsubstantiated and unscientific, no data published in peer-reviewed studies, says the crops will increase costs for farmers

News: Ugandan news site reports Uganda's biosafety bill would require crop refuge space many farmers don't have, failure to comply carries criminal penalty; notes GM maize can protect against armyworm

More Africa items

Asia

News: Jordan English-language news site reports alliance of 43 NGOs oppose proposed decision to allow GMOs into Jordan, argue the crops are "not scientifically proven to be safe"

News: Manila Times reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) announcement of launch of construction of new P302-million Crop Biotechnology Center, with goal of boosting productivity in rice, and research in other important crops

More Asia items

Europe

News release: NGO European Coordination Via Campesina says EU must reject industry's "manipulation of technical language" to hide "new GMOs," notes GMOs are patented, which proves they do not replicate natural processes because nature cannot be patented

Commentary: French EU Parliament MP announces she voted against GM sugar beet approval, says variety is glyphosate-resistant so it will lead to high glyphosate residue level on the crop and IARC declared the pesticide to be carcinogenic

News: French agricultural news service reports peasant NGO says BASF's oilseed rape produced via mutagenesis is a GMO and requires a permit; BASF points out organic association allows such crops to be grown as organic crops

News: French agricultural news site report BASF spokesman criticizes Volunteer Reapers for opposing mutagenesis, notes technology in use for 30 years, says logic dictates group also should oppose organic hybrid triticale

Commentary: Italian regional councilor Fabiano Amati says Italy should repeal unenforceable law banning GMOs, notes scientific studies show GMOs to be safe for health environment, points out former activist Mark Lynas notes anti-GMO sentiment won out but "unfortunately, it was wrong"

Commentary: Dr. Emma Martinez Sanchez and Dr. Tacita Croucher write for EuroScience publication EuroScientist in series on upcoming EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2018 Toulouse, examining role of public opinion in shaping the future of gene editing research

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters amplifies ISAAA report that Brazil is world's second largest GM crop producer, planting 50.2 million acres in 2017, a 2 percent increase

News: Mexican news site reports honey buyers say there is alert on honey from Yucatan due to illegal GM crops grown in area, fear that GMOs will contaminate honey, note that studies are underway

Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y el Caribe denounces upcoming S20 meeting in Argentina, says sponsoring G20 is undemocratic, illegitimate, neoliberal; says its goals are to put science, research at service of capitalism rather than serving people

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces availability of documents regarding OGTR's decision to issue license for commercial release of GM safflower with high oleic acid composition, following completion of risk assessments

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 - June 26, 2018
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9 04:25 PM

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a joint news release from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) and PG Economics, highlighting two new studies on GM crop benefits.

- In a joint statement, U.K.-based consulting firm PG Economics and ISAAA announced that two new studies outline the economic and environmental benefits of GM crop adoption. The ISAAA update on GM crop adoption in 2017 noted that the global adoption of GM crops continued to increase, while the PG Economics study pointed out that 17 million farmers had gained $186 billion due to the use of GM crops. The announcement was amplified in South American and Asian news outlets. **See more**
- The Dutch nonprofit journalism site OneWorld announced that it had sued prominent agricultural research school Wageningen University for access to communications between researchers and major agricultural companies. The group had previously requested the records, but Wageningen resisted, arguing that the institutes are not public institutions and therefore did not have to comply with open records requirements. **See more**
- German anti-biotechnology advocacy group Testbiotech announced that it would be in court tomorrow (June 27) to present its case against the European Commission's approval of Monsanto's Intacta brand soy variety. The group said at this hearing the court is expected to decide on who has the burden of proof on showing whether GM crops are safe. Testbiotech also highlighted previous legal victories in its battle against GM crop use in Europe. **See more**

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

North America

News release: International Food Policy Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences issue 2018 Global Food Policy Report, Chinese agricultural industry report; Chinese report notes U.S., Chinese tariff tiff will cut US ag exports to China by about 40 percent, soybeans dropping by 50 percent

Audio: Farm Progress America's Max Armstrong highlights new book by former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas, who calls anti-GMO movement ill-informed campaign to stop scientific progress

Commentary: Biotech trade association expresses optimism public will accept GMO food in future if they rely on science-based evidence; cites conversion of former GMO-opponent, Mark Lynas, who explained his change in beliefs in Wall Street Journal article

Commentary: Harvard University legal scholar says government should not mandate bioengineered food labels; notes no evidence biofood health risk, regulation could cost food industry billions

News release (embargoed thru June 27): University of Vermont study finds state GMO labeling law improved consumer attitudes on GM food; Purdue ag-economist/co-author Jayson Lusk says findings show concerns label will be viewed as a warning are misplaced

News release (embargoed until June 27): American Association for the Advancement of Science promotes survey finding GMO labels led to reduced opposition to genetically modified foods; notes

experts have not found human health risks from GM foods

More North America items

Africa

Video: Pan-African media company reports Bill Gates underwriting initiative by U.K. company, Oxitech, to prevent malaria by reducing mosquito population through release of genetically-modified male mosquitoes that will mate with females, spreading gene to kill female offspring

News: Xinhua reports on Kenya's launch of lab to enhance bio-safety and bio-security, Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Peter Tum noted the facility will help control spread of animal and human diseases

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippines' Business Mirror reports new ISAAA analsyis warns fake Bt corn seeds could cut country's yellow corn production, threaten technology's longevity, calls for immediate action on problem

News: India's Deccan Herald report on ISAAA biotech update finding rise in India GM cultivation notes country can only reach next yield milestone by accepting new plant technologies, curbing illegal GM cultivation

News: Hindu Business Line reports ISAAA analysis finds 3 percent increase in global GMO production, compliments P G Economics study showing GMO provided $186.1 billion in economic gains to farmers

News: India's Mint reports on resignation of National Seed Association of India (NSAI) director general Kalyan Goswami, due to differences with NSAI president M. Prabhakar Rao over intellectual property rights, highlights lobbying on Bt cotton prices

News release: International Food Policy Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences issue 2018 Global Food Policy Report, Chinese agricultural industry report; Chinese report notes U.S., Chinese tariff tiff will cut US ag exports to China by about 40 percent, with soybeans dropping by 50 percent

News: Reuters reports South Korea lifts temporary suspension on sales of Canadian wheat, as the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety did not discover any unapproved GM strains during recent tests, the ministry will continue to test Canadian wheat and flour

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech issues statement ahead of hearing at EU Court of Justice on its case, filed with ENSSER and Sambucus, over concerns that EU Commission did not sufficiently perform health risk assessments on Monsanto's Intacta GM soybeans

Commentary: Charlotte Krinke of Inf'OGM examines various amendments regarding GMOs that have been tabled in the draft food and ag law in the Senate, highlights debate over whether products from animals fed GM feed should be labeled

Commentary: Writing in Euractiv, European Seed Association secretary general says Greens GMO scaremongering is outdated, unfounded, a threat to affordable, accessible innovation that ensure a prosperous farming future

Commentary: Hilde Mellegård of Norway's Biotechnology Council analyzes discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, Canada, highlights Canadian Food Inspection Agency's description of it as an isolated event, notes lack of health risks

Study: Study in GM Crops & Food by Graham Brookes and Peter Barfoot of PG Economics examines environmental impacts of GM crop use from 1996-2016, with focus on beneficial impacts on pesticide

use and carbon emissions

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Writing in La Jornada, ETC Group researcher Silvia Ribeiro amplifies claims that FDA found no added nutritional benefit from Golden Rice, says effort to gain non-target country approvals is "propaganda"

News: Argentina's Clarin reports on Bill Gates' $4 million donation to Oxitec for development of "friendly mosquitoes" that pass deadly genes to offspring, with goal of reducing populations and curbing spread of malaria

News: Mexico's Mi Punto De Vista reports on Patricio Eleisegui's presentation of his book, "Envenenados," on health and environmental impacts of GMOs and pesticides in Argentina, Greenpeace's María Colin highlighted consequences for Mayan communities in the Yucatan peninsula

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand farmer and Global Farmer Network board member Craige MacKenzie writes for Genetic Literacy Project as part of its GMO Beyond the Science Series, hopes that CRISPR can serve as a "leap-frog" technology for New Zealand

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 statement by White House officials that the Trump administration is examining how to limit Chinese investments in key technologies, while U.S. senators introduced a bill to promote biotechnology in export markets.

- As part of an ongoing effort to force trade concessions from China, the Trump administration announced that it would be reviewing ways to limit Chinese investments in U.S. technology companies. Specifically, the Treasury Department is drafting rules that would prevent companies with 25 percent or more Chinese ownership from purchasing "industrially significant" technology firms. These restrictions would include biotechnology, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross noted that "enhanced" export controls on these technologies were also under review. **See more**

- Four senators from Indiana and Missouri announced last week that they had introduced a bill to invest in market access for products of agricultural biotechnology. The proposal would empower and fund the Foreign Agricultural Service to work help eliminate "non-tariff barriers" to American agricultural exports. In a separate statement, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization welcomed the bill. **See more**

- *Science* magazine reviewed science communicator Mark Lynas' new book, "Seeds of Science," which argues that activists are working against their stated environmental goals when they oppose GMOs. The review notes that researchers and supporters were equally mistaken about the ability of scientific arguments to change entrenched anti-GMO mindsets. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue writes for USA Today, reassures readers that President Trump will protect American farmers from Chinese trade retaliation, points to China's practice of rejecting U.S. biotech products while engaging in IP theft

News: Wall Street Journal reports on President Trump's plans to block many Chinese companies from investing in U.S. tech firms, as well as blocking additional tech exports to Beijing, with goal of preventing China from becoming a global leader in areas like biotech

News release: U.S. Sen. Todd Young, along with Sens. Joe Donnelly, Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill introduced the Growing American Food Exports Act to strengthen the U.S. ag industry by ensuring that innovative biotech products have access to export markets

News release: Biotechnology Innovation Organization applauds introduction of the Growing American Food Exports Act of 2018 to reauthorize funding for USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program

Commentary: Science magazine's Jose R. Dinneny writes review of Mark Lynas' new book, "Seeds of Science," notes the book's subtitle, "Why We Got It So Wrong on GMOs," could refer to activists like

Greenpeace, or to those who thought science would convince the public

News: High Country News reports on Oregon farmer Jerry Erstrom's struggles to control Roundup-resistant GM bentrgrass that entered his land against his will, highlights his frustration that USDA has relieved Scotts of future responsibility for cleanup

Commentary: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign postdoctoral researcher Paul South writes for The Conversation, describes his work on tobacco plants to remove natural toxins produced during photosynthesis, potentially boosting yields by 47 percent

Commentary: F. William Engdahl of Centre for Research on Globalization argues gene editing may be the new name for eugenics, amplifies article in Nature Studies showing potential for CRISPR to weaken ability to fight tumors, highlights Bill Gates' endorsement of gene editing

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Vanguard reports on call by Olugbenga AdeOluwa, Country Director of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Nigeria, on gov't to encourage youth involvement in organic agriculture, noting organic ag rejects unpredictable technologies like GE

Video: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes fifth video in its six-part series on its National Seed Dialogue and Celebration in Dec. 2017, with focus on promotion of community and household seed banks, one speaker warned about protecting seed banks from entry of GM seeds

Commentary: Ugandan journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines African researchers' work using biotech to improve livestock, highlights International Livestock Research Institute's development of breeding genes

More Africa items

Asia

News: Jakarta Post reports Indonesian Farmers Association (HKTI) will host Asian Agriculture and Food Forum (ASAFF) from June 28 to 30 in Jakarta, ASAFF chairman Winston P. Simanjuntak noted the event will showcase GM soybeans grown by Yogyakarta farmers

Commentary: Ahmad Fraz Khan of Pakistan's Dawn examines concerns about impact of GM rice detected in consignments from China on exports, argues that a registration process and monitoring system are needed on both sides to keep the supply chain clean

More Asia items

Europe

News release: GenØk - Centre for Biosafety reacts to studies in Nature Medicine showing potential for CRISPR to increase risk of cancer cell development in humans, argues the findings are relevant to all living organisms, not just to use of CRISPR in gene therapy

News release: French NGO Confédération Paysanne announces it held a protest at BASF's facility in Ecully in opposition to marketing of Clearfield rapeseed varieties, made herbicide-tolerant using mutagenesis, claiming they are "hidden GMOs"

Commentary: Franco Battaglia of Italy's Il Giornale examines former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas' change in opinion on GMOs, notes humans have been modifying food for thousands of years, highlights beneficial GM applications like golden rice

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on PG Economics study which found that GM crop adoption has generated net profit of U.S. $186.1 billion from 1996-2016, with 52 percent of gains going to developing countries

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on study in PLoS One which found that delays in GM crop adoption cause deaths and damages to local farmers in developing countries, EU restrictions on transgenics directly affect Africa as its main agricultural importer

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on meta-analysis by Italian research team which found that GM corn produces fewer mycotoxins than organic or non-GM corn, scientists hope it will help improve consumer confidence in GM foods

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 25, 2018
Date: Monday, June 25, 2018 4:59:44 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, we explore the fact that sometimes it can be difficult for good, science-based information on agricultural technology to get heard.

We highlight a piece from Mary Mangan that appeared in *Medium* that laments what she calls a "fog of misinformation and fear" that clouds the public's ability to access and trust research-backed evidence about product safety and efficacy. In a piece amplified by the Genetic Literacy Project, French academic Marcel Kuntz argues that the journal *Nature* is only adding to such a cloud of rhetoric around glyphosate by willingly publishing risk claims based on "preposterous innuendo" without giving equal space to rebuttals. And Susan Dudley makes the argument that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed research transparency proposal could help regulators focus on the best information.

Other pieces take a closer look at the European Parliament's special pesticides committee, review lessons to be learned from Mark Lynas' book and note the potential for biotech crops in Nigeria and the Philippines.

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: David Bronner

David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps and the Bronner Family Foundation, is a coordinating donor for various anti-GMO and anti-pesticide

Stories Worth Sharing

EU Policies: Special pesticides committee risks making matters worse by pursuing political points, seeking Portier's counsel

Nathanael Johnson: Lynas' book on GMOs shows most important mind to change is your own

Caleb Onwe: Nigerian farmers eager to see if GM crops can counter pest attacks, drought

Marcel Kuntz: By publishing "preposterous innuendo" without rebuttal, Nature contributes to anti-glyphosate hysteria

Henrylito Tacio: Power of biotechnology needs to be harnessed to fight hunger in Philippines

Mary Mangan: Difficult for communications on scientific research to break through activists' "fog of misinformation and fear"

Andrew Magloughlin: IARC chooses another "anti-science zealot" as its leader instead of changing its ways

Susan Dudley: U.S. EPA science transparency effort could improve evidentiary basis for regulations

advocacy campaigns.

Leveraging more than $100 million in annual sales of organic personal care products, Bronner-funded projects include multiple campaigns in the news this month - including ones by U.S. Right to Know, the Organic Consumers Association and the Non-GMO Project.

Learn more about Bronner and his Magic Soaps HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

The Sunrise: Gates Foundation grant to facilitate adoption of insect-resistant, drought-tolerant maize in six Sub-Saharan countries

Farmers Weekly: Without neonics, sugar beet crops will face greater threat from viruses

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Farm Bill passed by U.S. House, to be considered by Senate

French agriculture, ecology ministries seek stakeholder input on plan to end glyphosate usage within three years

European activists claim EFSA reviews of emergency neonic authorizations show agency's incompetence

Canadian Grain Commission says unapproved GM wheat not present in exports

U.S. activists plan protest Thursday at Kroger shareholders meeting to demand anti-neonic policy

Calendar highlights

June 26	June 26	June 26
European Week of Bees and Pollinators scientific symposium	European Parliament committee meeting on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	University of Neuchatel scientist gives New Zealand lecture on neonic contamination of honey
June 27-30	**June 28-29**	**June 29**
Australian Bee Congress	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development conference on genome editing in agriculture	French League for the Protection of Birds national congress

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included anti-biotech NGOs urged people to complain to the USDA regarding GM labeling rules. Media and stakeholders commented on the GM wheat discovery in Canada. Media and anti-biotech NGOs commented on Gates Foundation grants for GM mosquitoes.

- As the July 3 deadline for comments on proposed GM labeling regulations approaches, anti-GMO activists campaigned to get people to contact the USDA to voice their displeasure. The Organic Consumers Association urged readers to sign a petition and contact the agency to complain about the "bioengineered" term and "QR codes and smiley faces the USDA wants to let food companies hide behind." *Public News Service* quoted organic farmer Paul Dorrance complaining about the rules and saying the logos are "clearly a biased symbol in favor of" GMOs. **See more**

- Media and biotech stakeholders commented on the discovery of herbicide-tolerant wheat in Alberta, and Japan and South Korea subsequently freezing Canadian wheat imports. The University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth said the import suspension likely was an excuse to block Canadian wheat to drive prices down. He also blamed environmental NGO scare tactics. Canada's National Farmers Union called on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ban open-air field testing on GMOs. The *Edmonton Journal's* Paula Simons wrote that GM wheat is safe to eat, but poses an economic threat. **See more**

- The Gates Foundation recently announced a $4.1-million grant to Oxitec to develop a GM mosquito that would curb the spread of malaria in Central America. *Wired* reported the project "could help eradicate malaria on this side of the Prime Meridian." *Sputnik* highlighted a Friends of the Earth claim that Oxitec's past results are exaggerated, and that a decline in Aedes aegypti's population could leave a niche open for an even more dangerous pest. **See more**

- Looking ahead to a biotechnology platform debate in July, German Green Party members advocated for party members to consider the benefits of gene editing. A Green Party state parliament member, Theresia Bauer, wrote in *Spiegel* that the party no longer can ignore benefits of genetic engineering. On Thursday, Green Party members noted some members consider it sacrilege to debate biotech merits, but asked, "What kind of party are we, if we ourselves do not allow the debate on new social developments?" **See more**

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North America

Commentary: American Pharmacists Association amplifies STAT News' coverage of Trump administration's proposed transfer of responsibility for food safety regulations from FDA to USDA, highlights regulatory disputes between the agencies over GE animals and lab-grown meat

Commentary: Wall Street Journal excerpts Mark Lynas' book, "Seeds of Science," who says science is clear that GMOs are safe, world needs them, notes he formerly opposed biotechnology

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacey Malkan claims "Seeds of Science" author Mark Lynas makes inaccurate, unscientific statements on behalf of biotechnology, quotes scientists crticizing his

statements on GMO safety, scientific consensus, pesticide use and safety; claims Lynas "partners with Monsanto"

News: Wired reports on new partnership between Oxitec and Gates Foundation, says new GM mosquitoes can help eradicate malaria

Commentary: Global Farmer Network CEO Mary Boote amplifies GMO Beyond The Science III in collaboration with Genetic Literacy Project, following GLP's earlier multi-part series, highlights examination of non-adoption of new technologies in developing countries

Commentary: Civil Eats notes U.S. consumers want GMOs labeled due to health, safety, environmental concerns, but USDA regs propose using confusing terms, QR codes, and that highly refined products be exempt from labeling

Commentary: March Against Monsanto's Nick Meyer amplifies poll by The Hartman Group which found that 46 percent of respondents now actively avoid GMOs, with top reasons being health related, transparency, environmental issues, and opposition to companies

Commentary: Weather Network Climate Change Reporter Isabella O'Malley examines various strategies to help feed 9 billion people by 2050, highlights use of GM crops such as golden rice as well as lab-grown meat, calls for strategies other than industrial ag

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African news site correspondent writes that Nigerian farmers eagerly await opportunity to cultivate GM crops as counter to pest attacks, drought, climate change that have plagued their crops in recent years

News: The East African reports Kenya will become first East African nation to grow GMOs in open fields as farmers expected to plant GM cotton commercially in January 2016; field trials show Bt cotton yields are doubled

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports on South China Agricultural University researchers' development of GE pigs able to better digest two key nutrients in food, resulting in less manure released into the environment, lowering pollution from fecal nitrogen

Interview: The Hindu interviews Kaveri Seed Company chairman G.V. Bhaskar Rao, he notes there are several GM crop technologies awaiting government approvals, which he believes will increase size of the seed market and significantly boost farmer income

News: Vietnamese news site condemns Bayer-Monsanto merger as joining "destroyer of the world" with company that has "history of genocide," connects Bayer to Holocaust, worries merger will bankrupt farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany's Schleswig-Holstein state Green Party promotes conference on debating the Green Party's stance on new gene editing methods

Commentary: Vandana Shiva says Bayer's Monsanto purchase is attempt for Monsanto to escape its responsibilities, notes mock tribunal declared company guilty of ecocide, connects Bayer with IG Farben's World War II production of explosives, poisonous gas

Commentary: GMWatch publishes article stating Gates Foundation funding programs involving synthetic biology and gene drives in Africa are not charity but "philanthrocapitalism," attempting to use market force for good, but claims it could have far-reaching negative consequences

News: Sputnik reports on Gates Foundation's investment in GE mosquitoes whose offspring do not survive to adulthood, highlights opposition from Friends of the Earth, which claims eliminating mosquitoes could allow a more dangerous pest to fill the vacuum

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports authorities look to crack down on illegal entry of GM food from Peru, claims GM food harms health and hurts local producers

Commentary: National Autonomous University of Mexico professor and co-founder of Union of Scientists Committed to Society, praises AMLO's choice for Conacyt director, Elena Alvarez-Buylla, a "defender of corn" and biotech opponent, also UCCS co-founder, fellow UNAM professor; says she will "relaunch" science in Mexico

News: Brazilian business news site reports Sugarcane Technology Center developed pest-resistant sugar cane, market experts expect the product to gain market share once the GM cane is approved,

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on debate over compensation for GM crop contamination, Green party's Diane Evers calls for establishment of a compensation fund, while Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party's Rick Mazza argues current laws are adequate

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports gene drives can be used to eliminate feral species devastating environmental damage, but threat exists it could spread to animals' native lands, also can be weaponized

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included media reports in the U.K. that University of Edinburgh scientists used gene editing to breed pigs resistant to a widespread and costly virus. A grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help the African Agricultural Technology Foundation promote adoption of insect-resistant and drought-tolerant plants.

- The *BBC* reported researchers from the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute used gene editing to produce pigs resistant to the PRRS virus, which the media outlet said is among the world's costliest livestock diseases. However, the Soil Association's Helen Browning said that creating disease-resistant animals discourages farmers from improving livestock welfare, maintaining that raising animals responsibly will keep them from disease. **See more**
- Ugandan news sites reported the Gates Foundation awarded a $24.6 million grant to the AATF to support efforts at adopting TELA maize hybrids that are insect-resistant and drought-tolerant. The AATF will promote adoption of the varieties in six sub-Saharan countries: Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson says Mark Lynas' book "Seeds of Science" demonstrates our clans determine our opinions, not facts; urges arguing in way that builds friendships rather than destroying them

Commentary: Non-GMO Project urges readers to send drafted letter to urge strengthening the federal GM labeling rules, claims most GMOs will be exempted, updates GMO list just once a year, hides GMOs by using term "bioengineered," uses favorable looking label

News: New York state news site reports tough going for dairy farmers, but niche markets include non-GMO; Cornell Cooperative Extension dairy specialist notes implication is if non-GMO milk is good then GMO milk is bad, but all milk is non-GMO

Commentary: Alliance for Natural Health promotes action alert for supporters to write Congress, EPA to demand review of endocrine disruptors, says study links common chemicals such as pesticides to male infertility; also suggests link to glyphosate residues in GM crops

Commentary: Microbiology student writes for Borgen Magazine that biotechnology is enhancing food security by improving yields and growing times, provides improved nutrition for malnourished people via biofortification

More North America items

Africa

News: The Independent (Uganda) reports on award of $24.6 million grant by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) for commercialization of TELA brand insect-resistant and drought-tolerant maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Business Standard reports Competition Commission approves Bayer-Monsanto merger on condition that the merged entity give non-exclusive licensing of GM and non-GM traits currently commercialised in India or to be introduced in the near future

Commentary: Filipino business news site commentator says biotechnology gives humans capability to fight hunger, climate change, but anti-GMO forces believes the technology will harm health and environment despite scientific evidence to the contrary

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italian science writer notes that despite raising millions, Factor GMO turned out no science, scientists now in hiding, and looks like a Russian hoax; meanwhile, reputable scientists replicated Seralini's experiment with more scientific rigor and disproved his conclusions on GM corn and glyphosate

Commentary: EU Green Party MPs anticipate EU court ruling, say gene editing is just another industrial farming tool, should be regulated as GMOs, which are worthless and designed only to be herbicide-resistant and sell pesticides, make farmers dependent upon large agribusinesses

Commentary: German physician and sociologist delve into German Green Party's difficult relationship with science, notes some consider debate on merits of gene editing to be a sacrilege, but asks what kind of party cannot bear to discuss new developments, points out that Greens appear to be anti-technology

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentina's Legal and Social Studies Center says Monsanto sued Argentina to force it to patent its GM seeds and allow its business model to function in the country, questions validity of extending patent law to GM seeds, says it could violate human rights

News: Chilean radio station reports ChileBio director says Chile is main producer of GMO seeds but exports them to northern hemisphere, clears up myths about GMOs, telling people they are safe and there are no GMO tomatoes

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:04:26 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from the Canadian Grain Commission affirming that GM wheat had not entered the country's export supplies.

- The Canadian Grain Commission announced today that it had analyzed 1,700 samples of Canadian wheat grown over the last three years and found no trace of an unapproved GM wheat variety. Last week, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said that the unapproved wheat was found growing in Alberta last summer. In a separate statement, Korean NGO Consumer Justice Center called for stronger GMO labeling and inspection requirements in that country. **See more**

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: Canadian-Radio reports Canadian Grain Commission samples 1,700 samples of Canadian wheat, finds no trace of GMOs, says unapproved GM wheat discovered in Alberta last summer was isolated event

Commentary: Lois Ross writes for Canada's Rabble, analyzes two important stories about Monsanto, highlighting recent discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, and Delhi High Court's rejection of Monsanto's patent rights on Bt cotton

Commentary: Food Revolution Network says proposed GM labeling regulations full of loopholes and unclear terms, notes most GMOs created to produce pesticides, such as Bt crops, or be pesticide-resistant to be sprayed with pesticides

News: Supplements news site reports as innovation slows, products with new omega-3, higher concentrates, combination supplements appear to differentiate products, includes new sources, such as GMO plant-based omega-3 and non-GMO source

News: Researchers answer questions on Food Safety Magazine regarding Maryland Bt corn study, note how it suppresses pests even on non-Bt corn fields, notes organic and non-GMO farmers benefit from GM crops

News: NBC reports University of Connecticut researchers working with University of Florida to use gene editing to fight citrus greening devastating citrus industry in Florida

More North America items

Africa

News release: AATF announces it received Gates Foundation grant to develop drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize hybrids for African farmers

News: Namibian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Ag Minister Alphues Naruseb's tabling of Seed and Seed Varieties Bill to regulate production of seed varieties, he noted a "regulatory framework will ensure a minimum standard of genetic purity"

Commentary: ETC, African Centre for Biodiversity, Third World Network say synthetic biology threatens farmer livelihoods, biodiversity, bring biosafety concerns for humans, environment and renew concerns regarding biopiracy

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports Japan seeks to buy wheat from U.S., Australia after freezing Canadian wheat imports following announcement of unapproved GM wheat plot in Alberta

News release: Korean NGO notes third discovery of unapproved GM wheat growing in North America, says South Korea needs to overhaul its inspection system "to protect the health of our people"

Commentary: Korean NGO posts activist's GMO presentation, activist says scientists push GMOs because they believe it will feed rapidly growing population; raises concerns about South Korea's evaluation of GM crops, says GMOs can be "poisonous," cites lack of labeling requirements in South Korea

News release: Indian government announces Competition Commission of India approved Bayer's Monsanto purchase subject to some divestment requirements, other conditions

News: Indian news site reports West Texas A&M University professor, Nabarun Ghosh, says GM mosquitoes can solve dengue fever, malaria issues; says Bt crops can affect non-targeted insects

News: Indian news site reports panel on doubling farmer income suggests adopting GM technologies for non-food crops since GM food still under debate; notes the technology is powerful tool for developing new crop varieties

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Wageningen University notes upcoming EU court decision could give member states ability to decide on NBTs, notes it opens possibility for assessing varieties on case-by-case approach, which would serve public health and ag innovation

Study: Study in GM Crops & Food by Graham Brookes and Peter Barfoot of PG Economics finds that GM crop adoption has resulted in economic benefit of $186.1 billion for the period 1996-2016, with 52 percent of gains going to farmers in developing nations

Campaign: Slow Food Foundation urges Italians to donate via their taxes to avoid GM corn and to support growing "rainbow corn" in South Africa in support of biodiversity

Campaign: German ecological farming activist group calls for German economics ministry to appeal to EU to cancel Bayer-Monsanto merger to protect biodiversity from GM crops; 150,000 signatures to be turned over June 21

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguay's Subrayado reports on Mayor Orsi of Canelones' response to anti-GMO activists' demands at recent celebration honoring anniversary of Artigas' birth, he noted that such decisions need to be national in nature

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on recent celebration in Sauce honoring 235 years of the birth of Artigas, mayor of Canelones acknowledged participation of environmental groups protesting transgenics, soybeans and fracking

News: Brazilian agricultural news site notes U.K. consulting firm PG Economics reports $186 billion benefit for GMO farmers, and majority of the money went to developing countries

Commentary: AcBio, GRAIN and CALISA Nutricion write for Biodiversidad en America Latina y El Caribe, criticize G20 documents on agriculture, claiming it will lead to loss of autonomy for countries and allow for privatization of natural resources like seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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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 previews of events on Europe's use of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In the U.S., industry and official sources discussed efforts to regulate lab-grown meat.

- The European Parliament's agricultural committee previewed an "exchange of views" with Health Commissioner Vytenis Adriukaitis that is scheduled for tomorrow (June 20). New plant breeding techniques are an expected topic of discussion. Austria's Parliament announced that it was reserving a decision on whether to regulate NBTs under current GMO guidelines until the European Court of Justice weighs in on the policy; an article in *Euractiv* anticipated the decision in late July. **See more**
- U.S. media outlets previewed a July 12 meeting organized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to assess the current regulatory process for lab-grown or cell-cultured meats. An *Associated Press* article highlighted conventional meat producers' concerns over current marketing for so-called "clean meat." *Politico* reported that the White House Domestic Policy Council announced it would hold a meeting with both FDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to work through competing jurisdictions on the products. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico Pro reports White House to meet with USDA, FDA to hash out approach to lab-grown or cultured meat products in wake of FDA announcement it has jurisdiction over such products, plans to hold public meeting on topic in July; USDA also claims jurisdiction

News: AP reports traditional meat producers challenge 'clean meat' descriptor of lab-grown meat as suggestion regular meat is dirty; FDA to hold cultured meat meeting next month; U of Michigan professor says alt meat industry is wise to avoid associations with 'frankenmeat'

News: The Wall Street Journal reports growing battle over meatless products being sold in meat cases at U.S. grocery stores, with U.S. Cattlemen's Association petitioning USDA to bar plant-based products from bearing labels that read "beef" or "meat," seeking similar restrictions on "meat" grown from animal cells

Commentary: Farm Journal's Pork Business highlights FDA's plan for July 12 public meeting to gather comments on foods produced using animal cell culture technology; so-called cellular ag raises questions whether regulations enacted to ensure food safety for conventional animal foods are adequate

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report on Ethiopia's approval of biotech cotton notes planting of country's first biotech crop for cultivation expected to start in 2019, Environment Ministry authorizes confined field trials for drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize

Commentary: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation argues special interest groups that have misrepresented GMOs now using fear-based marketing to raise questions about gene editing, lists beneficial ways CRISPR technology can make precise changes to genetic codes of organisms

Commentary: Writing on Medium, genomics scientist Mary Mangan compares anti-science misinformation campaigns conducted by paid activists to balanced communications about scientific research, projects, data, evidence, suggests science often gets overshadowed by fearmongering

Interview: University of Connecticut talks to plant science professor whose team is using CRISPR-based techniques in bid to create more resilient citrus crops; he discusses implications of USDA statement on gene editing, future of plant research

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ghana-based journalist promotes Italian study finding biotech enhances crop yields, nutritional value as evidence to challenge Ghanaian beliefs that "GMOs are evil," show potential of GMOs for country

News: Ghana news source reports Ghana OFAB chapter launches annual media awards to recognize ag-biotech journalism, submissions due June 30

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report on Ethiopia's approval of biotech cotton notes planting of country's first biotech crop for cultivation expected to start in 2019, Environment Ministry authorizes confined field trials for drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize

Commentary: Writer for Tanzanian news site warns GMOs will destroy the lives of African people, claims European have seen problems of GMOs and are diverting them to Africa, where they will cause drug dependency

Commentary: Nkechi Isaac of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies statement by African Agricultural Technology Foundation's (AATF) Issoufou Kollo Abdourhamane that South Africa's successful adoption of GMOs shows that anti-GMO propaganda is baseless

More Africa items

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Austrian Parliament announces Parliament health committee postpones review of proposed gene editing policy to await EU Court ruling

Event: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU promotes final event of its "Keeping GMOs out of food" project, "Debate on New Genetic Engineering Techniques", to be held July 11 in Brussels to present main achievements of project, upcoming work on topic

News: EurActiv reports European Court of Justice "normally" would decide future of NPBTs before summer break in July, but no date set yet; if no judgment issued in July, source says ECJ to publish it in September; European Commission expects court judgment to bring clarity genetic modification definition

Announcement: European Parliament posts schedule for AGRI meetings June 20-21 in Brussels, including "exchange of views" between AGRI members and Vytenis Andriukaitis, commissioner for health and food safety, on topics to include plant health and New Breeding Techniques

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Chile's FayerWayer reports UNAM investigation finds transgenic corn has infiltrated nearly all of Mexico and is eaten by most people there, even as they assume government has banned its consumption; report notes long-running controversy about GMOs

News: Brazil's Globo Rural reports presentation at 8th Brazilian Soja Congress, organized by Embrapa, touts potential for sugarcane and soy to enter state of Sao Paulo, double planting area; Embrapa partnership with Corteva Agriscience aims to develop new soybean seeds using CRISPR technology

News: Bolivian rural news site reports farmers' groups make proposals to government for use of GM soybean and corn crops, plan to ask for transgenic events in sugarcane and cotton, say government appears open, no reason why events shouldn't be approved

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that South Korea had suspended imports of wheat from Canada. U.S. activists announced a social media campaign targeting proposed GMO labeling guidance from the Department of Agriculture.

- South Korea announced that it would be suspending importation of wheat from Canada following an announcement this weekend that an unapproved GM wheat variety had been found growing in Alberta last summer. Japan had previously announced a similar suspension. In several media statements, representatives of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) affirmed that the wheat had not entered the food supply chain. **See more**
- Just Label It! announced a "Twitter rally" scheduled for tomorrow (June 19) in which activists with Stonyfield Farm, Environmental Working Group and others plan to discuss the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed GMO labeling guidelines and offer information on how consumers can respond to the proposal. **See more**

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North America

News: CBC reports on South Korea's ban on sale of Canadian wheat and flour, following Japanese ban, due to discovery of unapproved GM wheat strain in Alberta, Cereals Canada president Cam Dahl believes they have the answers that both countries are seeking

News release: Geoengineering Monitor, a civil society information hub run by ETC Group, Heinrich Boell Foundation and Biofuelwatch, releases fact sheets on various geoengineering technology developments and potential environmental, economic and social impacts

Commentary: Geoengineering Monitor, run by Biofuelwatch and ETC Group, with support from Heinrich Boell Foundation, publishes fact sheet on enhanced photosynthesis technology, warns about potential unintended consequences of GE rice on traditional varieties

Event: Just Label It to host Twitter Rally to tell USDA to support strong GMO transparency in its labeling rule (June 19, 2018), panelists will include Only Organic, EWG, Stonyfield, Nature's Path, Seasnax and Good Culture

Audio: Radio show on Canada's Global News features Canadian Food Inspection Agency Spokesperson, David Bailey, he provides background on Japan's decision to block wheat shipments due to discovery of unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM wheat variety in Alberta

News release: World Food Prize will announce its 2018 Laureate on June 25 at USDA in Washington, D.C., honoring an individual for work to enhance human development and confront hunger

Commentary: CropLife magazine editor Eric Sfiligoj examines ag industry efforts to protect monarch butterflies, highlights CropLife America's Kellie Bray's belief that if monarchs are labeled as endangered

it could be a potential game-changer for agriculture

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan Catholic radio outlet reports on Catholic Bishops of Uganda's statement against the National Bio-safety Act, signed by Archbishop of Gulu John Baptist Odama, claiming that such products will make smallholder farmers dependent

Commentary: Owei Lakemfa of Nigeria's Vanguard writes tribute post to Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) leader Nnimmo Bassey in honor of his 60th birthday, highlights his environmental activism, including his fight against GMOs

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on debate over whether GMOs are the answer to food insecurity, highlights claims against GMOs made by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and Nigeria Institute of Food, Science and Technology (NIFST)

Commentary: Silvia Ceriani and Elisa Virgillito recount recent meeting of Slow Food International Council with the Kenyan network, highlighting Beatrice Mbugua, who works to conserve traditional seeds and spreading their knowledge with a local seed bank

Commentary: Coventry University (U.K.) agroecology researcher Katie Whiddon writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity ahead of Adaptation Futures conference in Cape Town, calls for changes that center around smallholders and conscious consumers

More Africa items

Asia

News: China's AgroPages reports on Japan's rejection of Canadian wheat imports following discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, National Farmers Union accused Canadian Food Inspection Agency of failing to take necessary precautions

News: Korean news outlet reports on Ministry of Food and Drug Safety's announcement of tentative suspension of distribution and sale of Canadian wheat and flour imports, only allowing those confirmed to be GMO-free to be sold domestically

News: Reuters reports South Korea halts sales of Canadian wheat and flour following discovery of an unapproved GM herbicide-tolerant trait developed by Monsanto in wheat growing in Alberta

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies study in bioRxiv which found that use of CRISPR/Cas9 to develop virus-resistant cassava triggered evolution of a novel virus, notes the results point to a novel environmental containment consideration

More Asia items

Europe

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU announces publication of report jointly commissioned by European Public Health Alliance, Friends of the Earth Europe, IFOAM EU and Slow Food, which finds that EU has no coherent or complete food policy

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Japan and South Korea's suspension of wheat imports from Canada due to discovery of an unapproved GM variety in Alberta, Canadian Ag Ministry's Jesse Wilson noted tests concluded that the wheat did not enter the food chain

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Charlotte Krinke criticizes agribusiness companies' argument that GMO regulations would make it difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter the market, claims it diverts attention from other issues such as safety

Commentary: Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama amplifies PG Economics report which found that GM crops have increased farmers' incomes by over 15,390 million Euros in 2016, 52 percent of the income went to farmers in developing countries

News: Luxembourg's L'Essentiel reports on Health Minister Lydia Mutsch's introduction of bill to strengthen legal basis for prohibiting cultivation of GM crops in Luxembourg, in addition to strengthening environmental controls

Commentary: Margriet Goris and Leonardo van den Berg of Agroecology Europe praise Brazil's recent IV National Agroecology Encounter (ENA), they argue that Europe should abandon "narrow, scientific definitions of agroecology," to encompass diverse cultures

News: The Guardian reports on Norwich-based startup Tropic Biosciences' development of fusarium wilt disease-resistant Cavendish banana varieties using gene editing, Chief Scientific Offier Eyal Maori described the urgency of the development

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ing Agr Gustavo Lopez of Argentine Association of Regional Consortiums of Agricultural Experimentation (AACREA) writes for local news outlet, promotes agroecology, noting goal of reducing environmental impact of ag as much as possible

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand's Soil & Health Association provides comments on Ministry for Primary Industries' Discussion Paper on a new organic standard for NZ, supports a mandatory, nationwide organic standard to reduce consumer confusion and boost confidence

More Oceania items

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 18, 2018
Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 4:51:17 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Is the Non-GMO Project labeling craze about to run its course? The University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth examines this question in the piece that leads off this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter. Smyth notes that brands including Betty Crocker and Clover Leaf Seafood have dismissed the Non-GMO Project's label in recent weeks in a possible trend of companies casting doubt on the anti-biotech initiative. In a separate piece, *BEEF Magazine* columnist Amanda Radke explains how an "abundance of labeling claims" is leading to confusion among consumers.

Other pieces highlighted this week include a pair of articles on the potential nutritional value of Golden Rice, plus a scientific explanation of why glyphosate should not be considered harmful to bees.

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Sustainable Food Alliance

The Sustainable Food Alliance is a nonprofit set up in partnership with the U.K.-based Sustainable Food Trust solely to funnel resources from U.S. donors to European campaigns promoting regenerative, organic and agroecology practices while

Stories Worth Sharing

Stuart Smyth: Brands fighting back against Non-GMO Project's labeling "gimmick" that has no proven benefits

Amanda Radke: IFIC survey shows media and activist rhetoric turning public toward foods labeled non-GMO

David Zaruk: Small group used exclusionary methodology to create momentum against glyphosate in Europe

Iida Ruishalme: Closer look at research shows glyphosate does not pose threat to bees

Emil Javier: Thousands of children becoming blind, dying from Vitamin A deficiency as Philippines refuses to approve Golden Rice

Science 2.0: Cancer label for glyphosate would have no scientific validity

Alex Berezow: "Improperly educated, hyperpartisan" New York Times reporters spread pseudoscience on GMOs, pesticides

Andrew Porterfield: U.S. FDA rejects activists' affempts to misconstrue statement on nutritional benefits of Golden Rice

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute videos show success of Bt brinjal: Part 1 Part 2

criticizing GMOs and pesticides.

Both groups receive financial support from the organic and natural products industries and are responsible for funding the U.K. NGO GMWatch and Gilles-Eric Seralini research attacking the safety of GMOs and pesticides.

Click HERE to learn more about the Sustainable Food Alliance.

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Adele Peters: U.K. researchers attempting to use CRISPR to save bananas

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What's Trending?

PG Economics: GM crops bring significant value to farmers in developing countries

Court rules cancer warnings not needed on glyphosate products in California

Hawaii governor signs bill to ban chlorpyrifos

Canadian Food Inspection Agency discovers unapproved, Roundup-tolerant GM wheat in Alberta

National Pollinator Week observed in United States

Calendar highlights

June 18-21	June 19	June 19-22
Plant Biology Europe	European Parliament committee meeting on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	International Conference on Environmental & Food Monitoring
June 20-21	**June 21**	**June 25-27**
4th Global Summit on Plant Genomics	U.S. Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus briefing	World Biotechnology Conference

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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 Canadian Food Inspection Agency announcement that unapproved GM wheat was found growing in Alberta last summer. The Food and Drug Administration announced a July 12 public meeting regarding lab-grown and cultured meats and may have signaled a conflict with the USDA on jurisdiction over the products.

- *Reuters*, *Russia Today*, and Canadian media reported the CFIA announced it discovered a small amount of unapproved, herbicide-tolerant GM wheat growing near a roadside in southern Alberta last summer. CFIA officials said surveys found no further spread of GM wheat in the area or contamination of Canada's wheat exports, and noted the variety poses no threat to humans, animals, or the environment. However, Japan announced it is temporarily suspending wheat imports from Canada until they can confirm no GM wheat is in shipments from Canada. A New Democratic Party of Canada statement called for a hearing to investigate the issue. An editorial on Newfoundland's *The Telegram* site said the discovery proves that unlikely things happen and said it should be a lesson for Canada's grain industry and for those producing GE salmon. **See more**

- FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced a July 12 public meeting to discuss lab-grown and cultured meat. *Politico* reported there may be a disagreement between the FDA and the USDA over which agency regulates such products. Gottlieb said the FDA "has jurisdiction over 'food,' which includes 'articles used for food' and 'articles used for components of any such article.'" However, a USDA spokesman responded that Gottlieb's claim "is so overly broad that it implies that USDA doesn't have a role," and that the department regulates "any product marketed as meat." **See more**

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

North America

News: Bloomberg reports FDA steps into lab-grown meat regulation, opposing USDA jurisdiction; FDA will hold meeting July 12 on safety, labeling, regulation; notes U.S. Cattlemen Association's petition to prevent lab-grown meat from using beef, meat labels

Commentary: Law firm reviews New York federal judge's dismissal of proposed class-action suit claiming Dannon Company violated false advertising, consumer fraud laws by advertising yogurt as "All Natural" when product contained ingredients from animals raised on GMO-rich feed

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes India news site article stating studies disproved Seralini's conclusion was pro-GMO activism masquerading as journalism, says The Print refuse rebuttal by Aruna Rodriguez, notes author did not contact other side in reporting but relayed "alternative facts"

Commentary: Life science news site urges further research to determine cancer risk to humans from CRISPR-edited cells lacking intact P53 gene

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association petition for Whole Foods to require labels on GMOs by original Sept 2018 deadline; blasts Whole Foods announcement to delay rule, await final USDA GM label requirements

Commentary: Wisconsin farm bureau member writing in Ag Daily maintains anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva spreads falsehoods about GMOs, agriculture by claiming GMOs harmful, agriculture resource hog

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports field trials begin on Bt cotton; country anticipating textile industry to boom when commercial planting begins next year

News: Uganda newspaper amplifies reports that regional Catholic bishops oppose biosafety bill claiming inadequate protections against health and other risks to people, animals and environment

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines chair Emil Q. Javier writes for Manila Bulletin, notes Vitamin A deficiency problem getting worse, points out 1,800 Filipino children die each year as a result, asks how much longer before country approves Golden Rice

Commentary: Science and politically focused website supports India farmers who, despite being illegal, want to use GM cotton seed due to benefits; farmers willing to risk prison in order to grow GM crops, stay competitive in global market

Commentary: Anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva accuses CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India of using subterfuge to introduce GM foods into India by proposing label that allows 5 percent GM ingredients in food

News: Indian business news site reports Bt cotton planted on more land this year, is getting better yields than national average

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv amplifies Corteva Agriscience CEO citing constant environmental changes, increasing regulatory demands to stress importance of utilizing technology, continually developing new pest control products, cites potential for NPBTs to "dramatically improve the speed of things"

News: Spanish news site reports Navarra senator asks Spanish government how it will fulfill European Directive to allow regional, autonomous communities to restrict, prohibit GMO

News: French pro-ag site Alerte-Environnement reports anti-GM researcher Seralini has ties to alternative medicine association, homeopathic products company

Commentary: No Patents on Seeds urges organizations to join 40 European NGOs in call to European Patent Office to no longer patent seeds, limit gene editing patents; claims after Monsanto merger, Bayer has too much seed market control

News release: University of Copenhagen professor's research finds Danish politicians ignore public's concerns about ethics of GM foods, instead concentrate on risk vs benefit arguments

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports indigenous people fighting Brazilian laws that disallow them to use GM crops for commercialization, GM crops are allowing group to provide basic needs for their families

Commentary: Mexican news site says GM corn is threat to contaminate native corn and honey in Yucatan, notes corn and honey hold historical, cultural significance beyond value as food

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included continued reporting on Indian farmers using illegal Bt cotton seed. An Agrifirm official says that Europe can grow enough non-GMO soy to replace GM soy imports from the U.S. and South America.

- India's *Business Insider* reported illegal, herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seed usage continues to grow and blamed the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee for failing to enforce regulations. *The Times of India* reported authorities seized $35 million in illegal seed and filed criminal charges against nine farmers. **See more**
- Netherlands news site *Nieuwe Oogst* reported Ruud Tijssens of Agrifirm, during a talk at Wageningen University, said Europe can grow enough non-GM soy to replace U.S. and South American GM soy imports, although it would cost an extra 150 euros to 170 euros per ton. Tijssens said that's possible, noting Poland's GMO ban and France is considering a ban. He also said GM soy cultivation leads to deforestation and contributes to global warming. German political foundation Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik publicized the Danube Soya Congress that will take place June 19-20, noting the farming group's goal is to replace U.S., Brazil, and Argentina GM imports. **See more**
- PG Economics released study results showing GM crops' economic impact on farmers amounted to $18.2 billion in 2016 and $186.1 billion from 1996 to 2016. The study indicated that 52 percent of the economic benefit went to farmers in developing countries. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health criticizes various New York Times writers for spreading pseudoscience on topics like GMOs and pesticides, includes Michael Pollan, Mark Bittman, Eric Lipton and Danny Hakim

News: Baking Business news site reports Bimbo Bakeries USA launched organic bread line, says new brands with "easy-to-pronounce ingredients" are response to customer demand for organic bread

Study: University of California-Davis researchers publish survey results for nationwide Chinese consumer study on public perception of GMOs; notes about 47 percent have negative perception of GMOs, 69 percent get GMO info on the Internet, and nearly 14 percent believe GMOs are form of bioterrorism aimed at China

News: The Progressive Farmer reports study on human gene editing posted in Nature Medicine journal casts doubt on CRISPR, as researchers find one gene prevents CRISPR from working properly, possibly making repair faulty and resulting in mutations; notes possible implications for plant applications

News: Drovers contributor takes issue with marketing claims that conventionally raised meat is unsafe or unhealthy, says True Story PR campaign takes low road in criticizing its competitors but science doesn't support PR hack accusations

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Katherine Paul contends Ben & Jerry's uses cozy deal with MoveOn to greenwash its image when dairy it sources uses practices that saturated the landscape in glyphosate, atrazine, metolachlor, asserts it should trade in dirty dairy practices, go organic

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity research coordinator suggests plans to reduce corporate power in South Africa, including restrict corporations to GM and hybrid varieties and phasing out GM seed, building alternative, small and medium corporations to challenge large corporations regionally

Announcement: Nigerian government now accepting public comments on application by Chi Farms Ltd. to import GM soy beans for feed processing; comments window ends July 8

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Seed Freedom announces Vandana Shiva meets with head of India food safety agency, pens letter to Prime minister opposing proposed GMO labeling initiative, calls for creation of independent commission to guide India food policy

News: Times of India report authorities sieze about $35 million in illegal GM seed, file nine criminal cases against seed traders, notes farmers still planting Bt-3 seeds posing "huge biological threat"

News: Indian business news site reports illegal Bt cotton seed sales growing in India, says as pests become immune to Bollgard II variety, blames GEAC failure to enforce regulations, says illegal seeds put farmers at risk due to questionable seed quality

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: French petition site posts campaign decrying calls for French TV journalist to resign after taking stance in defense of glyphosate safety, cites "broad scientific consensus" in support of this stance to stress concern over media, public angrily refuting scientific facts that dare to contradict popular opinion

Commentary: Slow Food Germany joins group of 40 institutions in calling for measures to end patents on conventional breeding of plants and animals in response to closure of Bayer-Monsanto deal, publishes the international call as well

News: Spain's Noticias De Navarra reports on regional Senator Idoia Villanueva's request for information from central gov't on what measures are in place to allow autonomous communities to restrict or prohibit cultivation of transgenic crops

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Agencia Informativa Conacyt profiles 2017 National Science Award winner Mari Elena Alvarez-Buylla Roces, highlights her early interest in environmental and social issues, such as environmental conservation and negative impact of transgenics

News: Chilean agricultural news site reports PG Economics study show GM crops profit farmers by $186 billion over 20 years, with biggest increases for farmers in developing countries

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports federal MP condemns Parliament investigation into compensating farmers for losses due to GM contamination, questions wisdom of compensation based on NGO's standards, accuses investigators of attempting to override Marsh court case decision, notes there is no basis for human health issues; organic farmer notes GM contamination devastating to organic farms

More Oceania items

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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 environmental group's criticism of India's proposed food labeling guidelines, as well as new details about fines levied in Brazil over the planting of GM soy.

- In a statement, India-based environmental group Centre for Science and the Environment said that the country's proposed food labeling standards were not effective enough. Among other proposals, the group called for stricter guidelines on labeling foods produced through genetic engineering and urged the government to crack down on illegal GMO food imports. The statement was widely reported in local media outlets. **See more**
- Brazil's *O Globo* reported that additional details have emerged on the environmental agency IBAMA's fines against indigenous groups who leased their lands to industrial farmers, implicating several tenants and farmers as well as five indigenous associations. **See more**
- Bolivian news outlets reported that local farming and seed groups called on the government to approve GM crops, continuing a longstanding pressure campaign for a more liberal GMO cultivation policy. The oilseed and wheat producers association (ANAPO) pointed out that domestic soy production was significantly below oil processing capacity, adding that GM coy cultivation could help bridge that gap. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project founder Jon Entine writes that although anti-GMO activists managed to block developing world from adopting GM crops, gene-editing techniques that mimic natural breeding is second chance for Europe, Africa to get things right

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth says tide beginning to turn against Non-GMO Project after Betty Crocker takes stand for GMOs, Clover Leaf Seafood drops the non-GMO label; notes Non-GMO Project not able to claim their products are safer

Announcement: Federal Register - Dept of Justice's Antitrust Division announces final judgement filed in suit against Bayer and Monsanto over antitrust violation requiring Bayer to divest substantial collection of crop protection and seed assets; public comment period open for 60 days

Commentary: Fast Company staff reporter writes that U.K. researchers at startup Tropic Biosciences working to save banana, coffee using CRISPR technology

News: Organic Authority reports Kelly Clarkson credits "The Plant Paradox" book with helping her get off thyroid medicine and lose weight; says it involves avoiding GMOs and pesticides while eating organic food

News: Cleveland TV news site reports Kelly Clarkson used "Plant Paradox Diet" to get off thyroid medicine, lost 37 pounds; Clarkson said she cooks only with non-GMO and organic food and avoids pesticides, dietician recommends eliminating processed foods

Commentary: Natural News claims FDA says Golden Rice does not offer any nutritional benefits, says GM crop was approved in the U.S. due to good chance it will contaminate American rice imports

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Catholic bisops ask Parliament to withdraw biosafety bill, claim citizens "not aware of the risks involved" such as negative health, environmental effects

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity announces partnership with Egypt to host African Biodiversity Summit (Nov. 13) examining land and ecosystem degradation in Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News release: India's Centre for Science and Environment releases statement on draft Food Safety and Standards; recommends tighter regulation on illegal GM food imports, fewer exemptions for labeling GM food

Commentary: Indian NGO Down to Earth notes Centre for Science and Environment says agency's labeling regs have major gaps, want to tighten regulations on GM food labeling

News: Press Trust of India reports Centre for Science and Environment says Indian agency must set stringent standards for food safety and marketing, "aim to regulate illegal GM food" and "set a stricter bar" for GM labeling exemptions

News: Times of India reports Centre for Science and Environment urges Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to establish more stringent standards for GM food labeling, food safety standards

News: Indian news site reports as India wrestles with GM mustard approval, unapproved GM crops continue being imported into India due to lack of rules on the issue

News: Press Trust of India reports Bayer proposal would have company buying additional 26 percent stake in Monsanto India; notes company already has a 72 percent interest through its Monsanto purchase

News: Reuters reports U.S. pressures China on trade items, including biotech, beef, poultry; U.S. wants better, easier access for biotech crops

More Asia items

Europe

News: Germany's Gabot reports sales of food products with the "Ohne GenTechnik" label are expected to reach 7 billion Euros, VLOG CEO Alexander Hissting noted the growth represents consumer and retailer trust in the seal of quality

Event: German news site publicizes Danube Soy Congress June 19-20, notes group is dedicated to replace GM soy imports with "sustainable," non-GMO soy grown in Europe

News: Latin American Herald Tribune reports on International Biotechnology and Industrial Revolution Summit in Paris, Luis Alberto Lightbourn of Mexican biotech firm Bioteksa spoke about Mexico's need to increase exports, highlighted genetic discoveries

News release: GenOk awarded Norway Research Council grants to fund projects measuring impacts of biotech on human/nature relations, to inform genome editing decisions

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports producers asking government to approve GM soy use to help reduce the amount of imported soybean

New: Bolivia rural news site reports farming group seeking GM crop approval from Ministry of Productive Development

News: Brazil's Nortão Notícias reports on Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources' (IBAMA) fines of R $ 129.2 million and seizure of 16.2 thousand hectares for illegal GM soybean cultivation on indigenous lands in Mato Grosso

News: Brazil's O Globo reports Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) issued over R $ 129 million in fines for cultivation of transgenic soybeans in indigenous lands in Mato Grosso

News: Oaxacan news outlet reports there are no permits for cultivation of transgenic crops in the state, although authorized in other states, researcher Flavio Aragón Cuevas highlighted concern about contamination of native corn varieties

News: Latin American Herald Tribune reports on International Biotechnology and Industrial Revolution Summit in Paris, Luis Alberto Lightbourn of Mexican biotech firm Bioteksa spoke about Mexico's need to increase exports, highlighted genetic discoveries

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an in-depth *Reuters* article summarizing the issue of herbicide-tolerant cotton use in India.

- A *Reuters* feature highlighted farmers' use of illegal, herbicide-tolerant cotton seed despite attempted government crackdowns. The report quoted several farmers on the interest in new seed varieties and noted that federal officials seemed reluctant to address the issue before an election. The article was widely syndicated. **See more**
- U.K.-based advocacy group GMWatch responded to outreach on the EU's GRACE, G-TwYST and GMO90+ GM crop assessments, arguing that the studies did not "refute" research by Gilles-Eric Séralini linking GM crops to cancer. The group claimed that because the studies did not replicate Séralini's study methodology and have not been published in a peer-reviewed journal, they can't offer any insights on the French researcher's work. **See more**

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North America

Report: Global Farmer Network CEO Mary Boote writes Beyond the Science III report for Genetic Literacy Project, examining challenges facing modern farming, highlights negative impact of anti-GMO activism, amplified via social media, on small farmers in Africa

Commentary: UC Davis geneticist Alison L. Van Eenennaam and master's student Maci L. Mueller write for Progressive Dairyman, examining potential benefits of using gene editing to breed hornless dairy cattle, they lament FDA's current regulatory approach

Commentary: Carmen Drahl of American Chemical Society's Chemical & Engineering News amplifies study on development of GM crops capable of feeding on phosphite, not available to weeds, potentially mitigating pollution from fertilizer runoff

News: Food Chemical News reports a federal appeals court is considering revival of class action lawsuit alleging that Conagra is deceiving consumers by labeling cooking oils made from GE crops as "100 percent natural" (subscription required)

Commentary: Central Virginia gardening columnist cites studies contradicting consumer beliefs of organic benefits, highlights health-, environmental-conscious efforts of conventional farmers, laments unfounded public fear of pesticides, GMOs, urging consumers to find evidence before giving in to fears

Commentary: Steven Novella of New England Skeptical Society criticizes Independent Science News article spreading false information that FDA stated golden rice has no nutritional benefits, highlights FDA's response, notes golden rice will help target countries

Report: Friends of the Earth "From Lab to Fork" report asserts need for assessment, regulation, labeling of GE lab-created animal product alternatives, due to potential health, environmental risks; claims tissue donor animals fed with GE crops produced with atrazine, chlorpyrifos, glyphosate linked to cancer

Commentary: Sam Bloch of The New Food Economy examines debate over what to call lab-grown meat, Intrexon's Jack Bobo believes "clean" meat antagonizes consumers, should be rebranded as "craft" meat, similar to craft beer

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya's Standard Digital reports on launch of first-ever field trials for Bt cotton, presided over by Horticultural Research Institute Director Charles Waturu, who described it as a breakthrough for the textile industry

Campaign: Several NGOs, led by Cadre de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR), write letter to Government of Senegal, G7 members and the African Union, claiming New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) has failed, calling for policies to boost small farmers

Commentary: Mersha Yilma of MELCA Ethiopia promotes recent workshop on need to incorporate Bio-cultural diversity and environmental education in school programs, topics included preservation of traditional knowledge, practices for sustainable conservation

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports many Indian farmers are planting Monsanto's unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM cotton variety, in spite of risk of arrest, a New Delhi gov't official noted it would be difficult to keep farmers from something they see as beneficial

Commentary: Yale's Environment360 analyzes Indian farmers' use of unapproved GM cotton seeds in spite of threats of arrest, amplifying Reuters' coverage, highlights Monsanto's withdrawal of the variety following trait fee dispute

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report examines anticipated cotton production in India this year, highlights issues with availability of illegal Herbicide Tolerant and/or insect resistant cotton, forcing gov't officials to crack down on seed distribution

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on National Assembly deputy Pham Van Tuan's endorsement of Science, Technology and Environment Committee's report on the Law on Planting, noting need to develop high-tech agriculture

Commentary: Aasma Sharma writes opinion piece for The Himalayan Times, emphasizes need of improving small farmers' livelihoods and production, advocates technological innovations like zero tillage, organic ag biotechnology and farm mechanization

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson claims EU-funded rat feeding studies do not refute Seralini's study, accuses Alliance for Science and the AFBV of making misleading statements, highlights differences in methodology

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies STAT News article on two new studies which found that CRISPR/Cas9 may increase risk that cells altered with goal of treating disease could trigger cancer, highlights UC Berkeley's Jacob Corn's statement that "genome editing isn't magic"

Commentary: Dods Monitoring consultant Alex Tiley writes for U.K. political news site, argues that Brexit provides the U.K. an opportunity to explore licensing of GM products currently tied up in the EU, and to consider domestic use of GM crops

News: Belgian news outlet reports on GM soy production in Argentina, agronomist Diego Fontenla noted organic farming is difficult due to lack of markets willing to pay higher prices, he pointed to negative

environmental impact of associated chemical use

Commentary: Beatriz Castro Fernandes of Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama examines abuses in food labeling that mislead consumers, notes GMO-free labels imply that there is something wrong with GM foods, in spite of scientific evidence supporting GMO safety

Interview: Spain's Publico interview biotech expert JM Mulet on his new book, "What is Healthy Eating?" he notes GMOs have been used for over 20 years, notes organic foods are more expensive but not necessarily any healthier

News release: Austrian NGOs Animal Spirit and Initiative Home & Environment (IHU) voice opposition to CETA ratification, warning about the investment court system ICS, negative impacts on animal welfare, and introduction of genetic engineering

More Europe items

Latin America

News: China's AgroPages reports on Argentinian Ag Ministry's approval of Monsanto stacked GM corn events with resistance to herbicides, lepidoptera and colepterans, National Health and Food Quality Service (Senasa) found it is substantially equivalent to conventional

Commentary: Maria Guadalupe Rico writes for Mexico's El Sol de Tampico, believes Mexico's weapon against NAFTA should be raising tariffs on GM corn from the U.S., notes it would give Mexicans the opportunity to consume native varieties

News: Mexico's Televisa reports on Apiculturists of Yucatán coordinator Nelly Ortiz Vázquez's warning that honey exporters have detected traces of transgenic pollen, noting that chemicals used on GM soybeans negatively impact bees

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Bob Edlin of New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science's blog notes call to debunk anti-GMO myths of GE-Free NZ and Greenpeace should be directed at new Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard

News: Radio New Zealand reports on its recent interview with former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas, he notes it is not surprising that GMOs are largely banned in Africa, when reputable NGOs like ActionAid spread claims about cancer and infertility

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Kenya had launched performance trials of Bt cotton. In Brazil, regulators fined farmers in indigenous territories for planting GM soy.

- Kenyan regulators announced that national performance trials of Bt cotton had officially begun in Kisumu County, following approval from the country's National Environment Management Authority. Charles Waturu, head of the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, told a local news outlet that the crop could help revive the country's "collapsed" cotton sector. **See more**
- In news first reported over the weekend, Brazilian regulators announced that they had fined several indigenous groups for developing large-scale agriculture utilizing GM soy in tribal lands. *Reuters* reported that indigenous groups were pressuring regulators to change the laws and allow farming on their territories, setting up a conflict between the native affairs agency and environmental regulators. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson examines how activism is likely to change following disappearance of Monsanto's name, notes that while Monsanto has done bad things in its history, it is routinely blamed for things it did not cause

Commentary: Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today believes Bayer's decision not to keep Monsanto's name is just the beginning of changes to come following recent large agribusiness mergers, notes much of Bayer's crop protection chemistry used in the Midwest will go to BASF

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield amplifies FDA's response to anti-GMO activists' misinterpretation of its golden rice evaluation, FDA clarified that rice intake in developing nations is much higher than in the U.S., and that golden rice would help

Commentary: Salvatore Ceccarelli writes for Independent Science News, examines link between decline of biodiversity and increased rates of inflammatory diseases, highlights risks associated with GM crops and pesticides, points to benefits of organic farming

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization Director Charles Waturu's assessment that Bt cotton adoption would boost cotton production threefold and raise textile industry revenue up to Sh2 trillion

News: Kenyan news site reports crops in northwest region swarmed by locusts, notes additional damage of southern armyworm heightening fears of citizens without food, cites farmers urging government for

help, with ag ministry vowing support through pesticides, training

Video: Urban TV Uganda reports on debate surrounding the biosafety bill, features two farmers who want access to GM disease-resistant bananas, Biotechnologist Clet Wandui laments the polarization in Parliament, notes that GMOs are needed

New: News Agency of Nigeria reports on recent South-West Sensitisation program organized by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), where former President Olusegun Obasanjo stressed need to embrace ag biotech innovations to boost food production

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI) Executive Director, Olufemi Oladunni's call for bio-security audits to prevent exports rejections, noting importance of trade for Nigerian farmers

Interview: Nigeria's Premium Times interviews National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba, he describes the GMO risk assessment and regulatory process, explains how NBMA reviews and responds to Nigerian citizens' comments

More Africa items

Asia

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

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agencia EFE reports on Spanish organic sector's expectation that new Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas will promote organic production, highlights statements from Ecovalia, Vida Sana and Spanish Society of Ecological Agriculture (SEAE)

News release: French Association of Plant Biotechnology (AFBV) announces results of GRACE and G-TwYST programs in Europe and GMO90 + in France invalidate Seralini's claims that GM maize poses health risks, noting long-term studies provided no new information

Commentary: Science blogger for Italy's La Repubblica, Sylvie Coyaud, examines reports that Russia's Factor GMO study has fallen completely silent, notes the project appears to be part of Russia's routine disinformation about GMOs

News: Algerian news outlet reports Consumer and Environmental Protection Association's (APOCE) sounds the alarm following rejection of ag products sent to European countries, Canada and Qatar due to presence of GMOs in Algerian animal feed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Portal DBO reports on Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources' (IBAMA) fines against tenets, farmers and five indigenous associations for illegal planting of GMOs in Indigenous Lands in western Mato Grosso

News: Brasil De Fato reports on 17th Conference of Agroecology in Curitiba, MST member Roberto Baggio believes such events help make dialogue between city populations and rural producers closer and broader

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: West Hawaii Today reports on free talks in Waimea by Australian organic farmer and IFOAM-Organics International President André Leu, with goal of raising awareness about science behind pesticides, GMOs and organics

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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

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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 11, 2018
Date: Monday, June 11, 2018 4:07:44 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter spotlights a pair of commentary pieces seeking a better understanding of why some in the public have rejected GMOs - and potential lessons moving forward.

Andrew Porterfield writes on this topic for the Genetic Literacy Project, with an eye toward preventing such a reception for gene drives. The SciMoms - Alison Bernstein, Anastasia Bodnar, Layla Katiraee, Kavin Senapathy and Jenny Splitter - similarly explore how many GMO fears are based on socio-economic concerns, not science.

Other unrelated pieces note the International Agency for Research on Cancer's apparent unwillingness to change amid criticism of its monograph process, plus a closer look at new research that disputes Gilles-Eric Seralini's previous claims that tumors in rats were caused by genetically modified corn and glyphosate.

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: Jessica Shade

Organic industry supporters including the Organic Trade Association and the Sierra Club have been quick to praise the farm bill proposed late last week in the U.S. Senate.

Stories Worth Sharing

Geoffrey Kabat: Despite changes to its preamble, IARC unlikely to correct approach to identifying carcinogens

Andrew Porterfield: Lessons from rejection of GMOs should be applied to gain favor for gene drives

Josh Bloom: Nearly 100 percent of pesticides are made by the plants themselves

Dirt to Dinner: Juice Press should stop misleading consumers about GMO safety, trust farmers

Rajju Shroff: Foreign-funded activists spreading misinformation that Indian farmers overuse pesticides

Steven Novella: Three replications of Seralini research show no toxicity from GM corn or glyphosate

SciMoms: GMO fears usually more about socio-economic anxieties instead of food safety science

Michael Meier: Adoption of genetically modified soybeans helped modernize Brazil's economy

The bill includes considerable funding for organic research and data initiatives while leaving out some provisions anti-pesticide NGOs opposed in the House version.

Jessica Shade, The Organic Center's director of science programs, has previously been vocal in support of other Senate legislation to boost organic funding. She has defended the safety of organic imports in an article in The New York Times.

Click HERE to learn more about Shade and the Organic Trade Center, the research arm of the Organic Trade Association

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

ISSAA: Ethiopia approves cultivation of Bt cotton varieties, field trials of GM maize

Sonja Begemann: Arizona researchers develop GM corn that silences genes from dangerous aflatoxin

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

U.S. Food and Drug Administration announces plans to collaborate with USDA on advancing biotech innovations

Bloomberg: Putin food security strategy includes pushing organic food, billionaire oligarchs manipulating markets

U.S. House committee seeks testimony from new director of International Agency for Research on Cancer

French beekeepers stage national day of action to demand further pesticide reductions

Bayer plan to drop Monsanto name prompts wave of commentary

Calendar highlights

June 11-14	June 11	June 12
Brazilian Soy Congress	European Parliament agriculture committee debates Common Agricultural Policy	"Understanding Obesogens" webinar with Bruce Blumberg
June 13-16	**June 13-14**	**June 18**
University of Wisconsin hosts conference on "The Agroecological Prospect"	Cereals conference	California trial begins on cancer claims involving glyphosate

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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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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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued commentary on the Bayer-Monsanto merger. Biotechnology advocates and opponents reacted to the Accurate Labels Act proposed by U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran. A science teacher criticized anti-GMO activists for distorting an FDA statement and claiming Golden Rice offers no nutritional benefits. Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad replied to an article that implied the company hides GM ingredient information.

- Media and activists commented on Bayer's plans to retire the Monsanto name. Activist statements focused on connecting Bayer to negativity associated with Monsanto. A Friends of the Earth campaigner said the group would be as critical of Bayer as it was Monsanto because products such as Roundup will continue production. However, a *France Culture* podcast quoted a Catholic Committee Against Hunger and Development statement that mobilizations would be more focused on products rather than against companies. **See more**

- Stakeholders reacted to the Accurate Labels Act, which seeks to ensure state labeling requirements are clear and scientifically accurate. An American Farm Bureau Federation statement supported the proposed legislation, noting California has warnings on aloe vera and that eating French fries could cause cancer, an exaggerated claim. Supporters included farming, baking and chemistry groups. The Environmental Working Group released a statement saying the bill would block states from warning consumers about "potential health risks like cancer and developmental harm to children." **See more**

- Alternative environmental news site *Natural Blaze* editor Heather Callaghan echoed earlier activist commentary by saying a U.S. Food and Drug Administration statement shows Golden Rice offers no extra nutritional value for vitamin A. Middle School science teacher and blogger Stephan Neidenbach claimed activists distorted FDA's statement, noting that "because the rice was developed for Asian markets where rice is a staple crop and vitamin A deficiency is much more prevalent, the FDA is just stating that it does not benefit U.S. consumers." Neidenbach said an FDA official later clarified this. **See more**

- Activists have criticized the vegan Impossible Burger because a key ingredient is GM heme - heme is naturally found in meat. A *GrubStreet* article insinuated the Impossible Burger producer, Impossible Foods, is hiding the fact the ingredient is a GMO and is avoiding compliance with safety standards. Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad rebutted the article, noting the *GrubStreet* reporter relied on sources who are "anti-science, anti-GMO fundamentalists." Konrad also said GM heme twice was unanimously declared safe by a panel of food safety experts. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad replies to GrubStreet article, maintains company complies with food safety standards and is upfront about GMO ingredients, notes two panels declared heme safe, notes reporter uses sources who are anti-science, anti-GMO fundamentalists

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow points out three European studies have disproved Seralini's claims that herbicide-tolerant, GM corn causes tumors in rats

News: The Ring of Fire Network amplifies Thom Hartmann interview with America's Lawyer Mike Papantonio, who warns Monsanto merger with Bayer will boost dangers to consumers, particularly from GMO seeds saturated with Roundup

News: Bloomberg reports Russian food exports now surpass value of all military hardware sales; Putin food security strategy, which includes promotion of organic, backed by billionaire oligarchsâ€™ market manipulations

News: Climate-energy newswire reports scientists develop GE pig to better digest nitrogen, phosphorous in feed, excrete fewer toxins; lead researcher hopes GMO regulations lax as GE pigs will improve feed efficiency, reduce carbon footprint

News: Fox News reports on singer Kelly Clarkson giving credit for weight loss to diet including foods with no GMOs and no pesticides

More North America items

Africa

News: Ethiopian newspaper reports government environmental ministry has approved GMO cotton following field trials that found no threat to environment, health; notes agricultural research institute will begin trials on GMO corn

News: Ghana News Agency reports Central Region farmers, other agricultural stakeholders speak out in favor of using GM crops to increase yields and food security, reduce costs

Commentary: Youth for Science and Development founder writes op-ed for Ugandan business news site, says biotech is crucial for Uganda's to become modern country, fight climate change, feed growing population

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian food news site reports Indian GMO circulating petition urging Food Safety, Standards Authority to include pesticide, genetic modification details on food labels; GMO says present threshold for including GM ingredients too low

News: Indian newspaper reports EU investigation discredits Seralini research paper claiming GM corn as source of tumors in rats; Indian environment minister used paper to ban Bt Brinjal

Commentary: Indian legal researcher writing in The Wire says Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority has moral, political responsibility to protect farmers' seed rights as companies demand greater patent protection over plant varieties

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French blogger Houssen Moshinaly attempts to debunk myths, propaganda about endocrine disruptors, analyzes sperm decline, low IQ, disease claims, concludes endocrine disruptors are one of worst scapegoats of NGO "merchants of fear" activists

Commentary: Italian agricultural association notes Osservatore Romano writer Carlo Triarico says he didn't question integrity of Sant'Anna researchers on GMO safety study, but questioned lack of public funding for research, making private funding more critical and compromising research

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian agricultural news site reports CropLife study shows Chinese delays in approving biotech traits harms Brazil economically

News: Reuters reports Brazil cracks down on tribes for using reservation land to grow GMO crops, engage in large-scale agriculture, both banned on reservations; notes tribes pressing to change laws

Commentary: Brazilian environmental news site profiles Monsanto, claims WHO classifies Roundup as carcinogen, notes it is leader in producing GM food with "high cost" for world's inhabitants, equates Bayer with Monsanto

Commentary: Brazil's Movement of Landless Rural Workers amplifies Brasil de Fato interview with actress Leticia Sabatella, who took part with MST members in 17th Jornada de Agroecologia in Curitiba; she touts importance of agroecology to building sustainable future

News: Argentine business news site reports government approves GM alfalfa that uses Monsanto-developed traits, including glyphosate-tolerance; notes IARC determined glyphosate to be probable carcinogen

More Latin America items

Oceania

Oceania: Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance national committee issues statement, vows to fight industrial food systems, including biotechnology, and to promote seed sovereignty

More Oceania items

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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 worldwide media and stakeholder reporting and commentary on Bayer closing its Monsanto purchase. An annual agroecology fair in Rio de Janeiro focused on peasant farming. India's environmental minister says GM mustard is still being studied.

- Wire services, media and stakeholders reported and commented on Bayer completing its purchase of Monsanto today. German NGOs released a joint statement arguing that agribusiness consolidation endangers food sovereignty and called for a legal review on the purchase. *Farmer's Daughter USA* blogger Amanda Zaluckyj said farmers have legitimate concerns on the merger as consolidation could mean higher prices and fewer choices. A *Deutsche Welle* reporter noted that while Bayer will drop Monsanto's "toxic name," the corporation must prove it can overcome Monsanto's "evil reputation." **See more**

- Brazilian media highlighted the 17th Conference of Agroecology that brought together farmers, students and agroecology researchers. At the fair, the Landless Workers Movement said it struggles to maintain the right to use seeds and grains, adding that GM and hybrid seeds can contaminate organic farming. An Articulation of the Paraíba Semiarid official maintained smallholder farmers grow and sell food free from GMOs and poison. **See more**

- Indian Minister of the Environment Harsh Vardhan said GM mustard has not been shelved, but his ministry is "studying the issue with meticulous precision." Vardhan, who also is the Science and Technology minister, said controversial issues "cannot be taken without applying science and scientific minds and taking the opinion of all the relevant stakeholders." *India Science Wire* also reported TERI School of Advanced Studies researchers developed an early flowering GM mustard. The article noted global warming has shortened the growing season, and early flowering shortens the plant's life cycle without compromising yields. **See more**

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

North America

Campaign: Daily Kos and several NGOs asks readers to sign petition to Amazon asking them to stop selling Arctic apples, claims the GM product has not been adequately tested for health, environmental risks; objects to non-browning quality, claims it shows apple is no longer fresh

News: New Food Economy reports prominent figure in organic movement says he supports using gene-edited crops in organic farming if they mimic naturally occurring varieties; questions if organic industry will follow

News: The Guardian reports on SexyPlant project with goal of genetically engineering plants to produce insect sex pheromones and disrupt mating, to reduce use of pesticides that harm beneficial insects, one pest being targeted is the fall armyworm

Commentary: Canadian news site columnist says Canadians unknowingly ate 4.5 tonnes of GE salmon last year, says "messed up" part is Canadians paid $8.2 million in taxes to support salmon's creation, says companies skeptical about the GE fish, says AquaBounty is secretive about how it is made

Commentary: Caroline Cox of Independent Media Institute writes for AlterNet, warns readers about recent FDA tests which found glyphosate in several common foods, links it to several negative health effects and endocrine disruption, promotes organic

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana news site reports OFAB Ghana Coordinator and scientist says GMOs pose no health threats, but political reporting has overshadowed science reporting in area; says that's why OFAB media awards created to encourage journalists to delve into science

Commentary: Stephen Greenberg of African Centre for Biodiversity voices opposition to Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, examines Bayer's request for reassessment of requirement that it sell businesses to black economic empowerment (BEE) compliant companies

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan says GM mustard has not been shelved, but ministry is studying the crop meticulously

Commentary: Public Affairs Forum of India president writes in Indian news site op-ed that biotech debate in India should consider climate change because GM crops can help fight environmental stresses, fights pests and weeds; says wide spectrum of technology adoption needed to help farmers survive

Commentary: India Science Wire notes researchers use biotech to develop early flowering mustard, says this is important because climate change is shrinking plant cycle

More Asia items

Europe

News: Feed Navigator reports demand for non-GM dairy, poultry, eggs - from animals not fed GM feed - expected to rise 27 percent; Germany's non-GMO certification manager says keeping up with feed demands is not a problem

News release: Portuguese Communist Party releases statement objecting to procedural rule that gives Parliament no power to override European Commission decisions, objects to Commissionâ€™s GM maize approval, maintains the Commission is closely connected to agribusinesses that produce GMOs

Commentary: Jean-Michel Bos writes for Deutsche Welle, examines Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's name following completion of the merger, highlights glyphosate use on GM crops Africa, warns about health risks such as cancer and infertility

More Europe items

Latin America

Audio: Jornal da USP interviews doctoral candidate in biology on GM crop safety, who highlights multi-year process behind GM crop evaluation and urges consumers to trust scientists

Commentary: Uruguay-based NGO dedicated to protect tropical forests opposes GM tree planting in Chile, claims they are fire hazard, deprive communities of water, pesticides used on them will contaminate water, and carry unknown risks

News: Mexican green news source Ecoticias highlights demands of major environmental organizations on World Environment Day, including prohibition of transgenic crops; Friends of the Earth coordinator says banning GMO crops is group's focus for day, noting 17 EU countries have banned them, but Spain

has not done so

Commentary: AgroVoz reports Argentina's Ministry of Agribusiness has approved dicamba-tolerant soybean variety, notes crop has been trialed by not commercialized due to IP concerns

Commentary: Steven Druker continues series in La Jornada claiming that regulatory agencies downplay GM crop risks, highlights academic societies and says they twist the science on safety,

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand announces it will ask Wellington Council to prohibit outdoor release of GMOs, make field testing discretionary; claims council's omission does not reflect community, farmers' concerns

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) promising updated biotechnology regulations.

- In a blog post to the FDA website, the Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced that FDA was developing a "nimble" approach to new gene technologies such as gene editing and synthetic biology. Specifically, Gottlieb highlighted the creation of a new Biotech Working Group in May and said that the group would be releasing recommendations for a regulatory "action plan" in the coming months. *Politico* amplified the statement. **See more**
- Canadian activists amplified a report this week from *Maclean's,* highlighting the discovery of the two import companies selling genetically modified salmon. The groups Vigilance OGM and Canadian Biotechnology Action Network urged their supporters to contact restaurants, grocery stores and legislators in order to demand the salmon be labeled. **See more**
- News outlets in Kenya continued to report on the country's recently approved field trials for Bt cotton, though a *Kenya News* report noted that the country maintains its moratorium on GM imports. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: FDA commissioner, deputy commissioner announce plans to advance biotech innovation, will focus on "timely transition of technologies," notes new Biotech Working Group to promote innovation through science and risk-based regulatory framework, public outreach, partner engagement

News: Politico Pro reports FDA announces steps to encourage biotech advances, work closely with USDA on regulating plant, animal biotech products; notes newly formed Biotech Working Group to release plan for flexible regulatory framework

Video: Science writer interviews University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smythe, who discusses shift in attitude towards GMOs as public discovers benefits of GM food, notes Betty Crocker announcement and Cloverleaf Seafood pulling non-GMO label off products

Commentary: Vigilance OGM announces finding two companies importing GM salmon, NGO's Thibault Rehn claims it's important to shed light on issue, says companies should be transparent on the issue

Campaign: C-BAN identifies companies that import GE salmon, urges readers to contact restaurants, grocery stores, and legislators urging them to reject GE salmon and see that it's labeled

Commentary: The Packer's Tom Karst writes Bayer's purchase of Monsanto won't appease NGOs, who are already proclaiming Bayer as "the new Monsanto," cites Andrew Kimbrell's statement, public input opposing GE Citrus tristeza virus to combat citrus greening

Commentary: Quartz reporter notes Bayer will retire Monsanto name once purchase is finalized, but "everything will stay exactly the same," highlights Roundup carcinogen status; Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell notes dropping name does not drop liability

Commentary: Stonyfield Organic's Gary Hirshberg and Just Label It's Scott Faber criticize USDA's proposed GM labeling rules, say it will confuse consumers by using confusing language, leaving loopholes so not all GM food is labeled, and allowing QR codes that exclude people without smartphones

News release: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announces preliminary determination for deregulation of herbicide-tolerant, GM cotton variety, notes 30-day period for public comment on environmental assessment

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: International Law Office interprets, explains South Africa's Genetically Modified Organisms Act, notes country also is subject to Cartagena Protocol

Commentary: U.S.-based NGO publishes researcher's uneasiness at disconnect between AGRA's plans for green revolution and Tanzania's small holder farmers

Video: NTV Kenya reports agency approves national trials for GM cotton to aid farmers, who report high cotton production costs due to numerous pesticide applications required for non-GM cotton; notes Kenyan research shows Bt cotton has protected against pests, reduced pesticide use, increased yields

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports flaw in seed law allows fake GM seed proliferation, hurts seed sector

News: The Indian Express reports area cultivated with illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds is likely to fall this year, as state govt's took early action to crack down on sales, farm activist Kishore Tiwari noted the supply of HT seeds is clearly meeting a farmer demand

News: Manila Bulletin reports Golden Rice gets third major certification as U.S. FDA approves the GM crop, notes organizations developing Golden Rice to supply vitamin A to nutritionally deprived people

Commentary: Third World Network notes surveys show pink bollworm affected 80 percent of India's cotton crop, including Monsanto's Bt Bollgard II crop

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italy's Libertarian Movement criticizes Nazi-Communist Task Force for a GMO-Free Italy's statement against Giorgio Fidenato to the Udine Public Prosecutor, argues they have no respect for the law, as Fidenato has two judgments in his favor

Announcement: John Innes Center introduces new Knowledge Exchange and Commercialization team dedicated to help commercialize products to help inform policy, get maximum benefit for society

News: Nieuwe Oogst reports on opening of new BeetLab, quotes Institute of Sugar Beet Research head on potential for gene editing to increase industry's competitiveness

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's Conselho de Informacoes Sobre Biotecnologia amplifies CropLife International study that shows Brazil would earn $3 billion over 5 years if China's regulatory system were predictable,

science-based

Commentary: Mexican news site reports GM food is safe, offers benefits such as increased yields, increased nutrition, notes genetic modification no different than conventional breeding regarding safety

News: Mexican genetics news site reports ARRIGE seeks global governing of gene editing to promote its responsible use, notes bioethics specialist Gemma Marfany suggests regulating products rather than process

News: Televisa News summarizes activist and peasant efforts to block GM soy cultivation in the Yucatan, says groups' successes in declaring a GE-free state should inspire other communities

News: La Jornada reports Mexican anti-trust agency concerned about Bayer being only GM seed supplier in local markets, requires asset sell-off to BASF; adds that companies may appeal the decision

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

More Oceania items

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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 activist campaigns in celebration of World Environment Day. Activists announced an agroecology march in Brazil, and Bolivian producers highlighted GM crop potential for the country's food oil production.

- Activists around the world highlighted new campaigns in honor of World Environment Day. In the Philippines, activists noted their ongoing concerns over GM crop introductions in the country and warned against Golden Rice approvals. Greenpeace previewed a new organizing platform to "elevate" environmental activism in Africa. **See more**
- The Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores issued a statement previewing a public march today through Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The group expected more than 2,000 people to attend the event, which was designed to draw attention to the role of agroecology in Brazil. The march caps events that took place this week as part of the IV Encontro Nacional de Agroecologia (ENA). **See more**
- Bolivia's *La Prensa* reported on a statement from the president of the College of Agriculture Engineers of Santa Cruz highlighting the stagnation of the country's food oil production in recent years. The official went on to highlight efforts by agricultural producers to introduce transgenic crops to the country, adding that they could be one solution to growth. **See more**

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: Washington Post columnist reports Bayer to drop Monsanto name after merger in campaign to win back consumer trust; Food & Water Watch says if Bayer keeps Monsanto "destructive"products, practices it will be synonymous with enviro, public health disaster

News release: Center for Food Safety reacts to Bayer's decision to drop Monsanto's name following completion of the acquisition, executive director Andrew Kimbrell noted the move is not surprising, but notes that Bayer will not drop liability in dropping the name

Commentary: The New Food Economy's features editor Joe Fassler argues that Bayer's decision to retire the Monsanto brand is a good thing for the GMO debate, notes it will encourage more in-depth conversations when there is no longer one company to be against

Campaign: Credo Action petition calls for resistance to proposed USDA labeling rules before July 3 input deadline; says consumers will be "misled" by "Monsanto's dangerous GMO labeling rule"

Commentary: Industrial automation news site editor says USDA proposed labeling laws shift accountability for public health/environment from government to food manufacturers

Commentary: University of Maryland School of Public Policy professor Kathleen M. Vogel writes for Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, analyzes research conducted by her students providing a global

snapshot of regulatory policies and attitudes towards CRISPR

News release: CRISPRcon: Conversations on Science, Society and the Future of Gene Editing taking place in Boston, hosted by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines how lessons from the GMO debate can lead the way for public acceptance of gene drive technology, notes importance of understanding and addressing potential public objections

News: Canada's Maclean's magazine reports on secrecy surrounding buyers of AquaBounty's GE salmon, highlights import documents obtained by NGO Vigilance OGM, AquaBounty stated it did not reveal its customers over fears that they would be unfairly attacked

Commentary: Marion Nestle questions whether golden rice will really help curb vitamin A deficiency, highlights FDA's conclusion that golden rice does not contain enough beta-carotene to merit a health claim

More North America items

Africa

News release: Greenpeace Africa announces launch of new online campaign platform, VUMA.earth, to allow users to set up petitions, communicate with supporters and set up offline events with goal of spreading the environment movement in Africa

Commentary: Writing for The Ecologist on World Environment Day, Daniel Cima of ENVJUSTICE, explains how environmental justice movement is transforming world, highlights data from ENVJUSTICE's Atlas of Environmental Justice notes 23 pesticide conflicts despite known negative impact on health, enviroment

Commentary: Francesca Mancuso of Italian green living magazine GreenMe writes for Lo Spillo, examines recent protest against release of GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology, voices opposition to Monsanto

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent protest against GMOs led by Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE), CCAE coordinator Blandine Sankara voiced concern about potential impacts of GE mosquitoes and Bt cowpea

News: GNA reports Ghana peasant farm groups with funding from anti-GMO Groundswell and OSIWA lobby president to adopt agroecology; supporters claim growing organic promotes health and benefits climate

News: Ghana Broadcasting Corporation reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology Ghana Chapter's call for improvements in science and technology journalism, Professor Walter Sandow Alhassan noted role of media in increasing farmer awareness

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on biotech tour organized by African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and South Africa-based AfricaBio for a Nigerian delegation, with goal of sharing information on how small farmers benefit from biotech crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports on recent Salakyag Marches Against GMO Cartel Destroying PH Agriculture, on occasion of World Environment Day, Roselyn Balmes of Agro-Eco Philippines claimed GMOs degrade the environment and are bad for farmers

News: Philippines news source reports U.S. FDA declares GM Golden Rice safe for human consumption, agreeing with IRRI assessment that Golden Rice safe and nutritious, but plant still not approved for

cultivation and consumption in Philippines and Bangladesh

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Guardian reports FoE Europe campaigner says Bayer may drop Monsanto name after purchase, but U.S. company's legacy will remain, warns Bayer will face same global resistance as Monsanto has if it continues to sell pesticides and GMO seeds, calls those bad for farmers, consumers, countryside

Commentary: The Guardian's John Vidal voices concern about impact of Bayer-Monsanto deal on farmers, amid other large agribusiness mergers, profiles Indian seed researcher Debal Deb's cultivation of over 1,000 traditional rice varieties to give to farmers

Commentary: French pro-ag news site Alerte Environnement criticizes Bio Consom'actors President Sophie Lakhdar's recent speech at EU Parliament hearing on new breeding techniques, notes she failed to reveal her role as a director of Biocoop

News release: France's Volunteer Reapers announce trial of 12 members set for June 6 in Beziers; activists charged after entering 34 stores to denounce sales of Roundup, other pesticides containing glyphosate; group promotes its fight against GMOs, citing direct link to use of herbicides

News: U.K.'s Feed Navigator reports French National Assembly adopts provision to require on-pack labels stating "fed with GMOs" for animal protein products from animals raised on GM feed, as well as labeling requirements concerning farming methods, geographical origins; bill now moves to Senate for review

Event: Friends of the Earth Spain hosts "Open Parliament on Transgenics: Legal and Political Framework for its Prohibition," argues Spain's cultivation of GM corn has no advantages for producers, consumers or the environment

News: Portugal's Lusa reports on Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) report which found that GM maize cultivation area increased by 3.6 percent in 2017 to 7.3 thousand hectares, Alentejo remained the region with the greatest area at 3,187.2 hectares

Commentary: Francesca Mancuso of Italian green living magazine GreenMe writes for Lo Spillo, examines recent protest against release of GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology, voices opposition to Monsanto

Commentary: Slow Food Italy President Gaetano Pascale criticizes USDA's proposed GMO labels as deceptive, voices opposition to use of the term "bioengineered" with which consumers are not as familiar, and use of sunshine imagery

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Paula Machado and Verônica Pragana of Brazil's National Articulation of Agroecology (ANA) promote the IV National Meeting of Agroecology (ENA) march on June 3 in Belo Horizonte, with two thousand people participating

News: Bolivia's La Prensa reports on ag sector's migration from sunflower to soybean oil, highlights Santa Cruz producers' demand for gov't authorization of GMOs, they prefer GM soybeans due to resistance to pests and effects of climate change

Commentary: Greenpeace Brazil Director Asensio Rodriguez writes Environment Day piece, reflects on environmental threats, notes organized protests have been able to prevent passage of "Poison Package"

Commentary: Oscar Steve of Xataka Mexico examines reasons why 90 percent of Mexican tortillas are

contaminated with GM corn, points to contamination of native corn varieties by imported transgenic corn, highlights permits granted to Monsanto

News: Latin American news outlets report on near completion of Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, and Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's name

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on impact of Bayer-Monsanto merger on Australia's seed sector, Bayer's expected seed business sales will include a canola breeding facility in Horsham, Victoria, day-to-day breeding activities are unlikely to be impacted

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 Bayer AG's announcement that it expects to close its takeover of Monsanto Co. this week. In France, a plant biotechnology group issued a statement amplifying the European Union's GRACE assessment showing a GM maize variety is safe.

- Bayer board chairman Werner Baumann announced to investors that Bayer expected to conclude its takeover of Monsanto this Thursday, June 7. During the call, Baumann noted that integration of the companies will begin as soon as BASF has acquired the seed and chemical divestments, which he estimated would take two months. Baumann added that the new company would be known as Bayer and the Monsanto brand name would no longer be used. Media outlets around the world covered the announcement, with commentary in U.S. and European news outlets highlighting the sometimes toxic nature of the Monsanto name. **See more**
- France's L'Association française des biotechnologies végétales (AFBV) issued a statement today highlighting the recent conclusion of the EU's GRACE risk assessment on MON810 maize. The French association noted that there have been three studies that have attempted to re-create results from a maize feeding trial conducted by French researcher Gilles-Eric Séralini and that all have shown the safety of the crop. **See more**
- News outlets in Burkina Faso amplified the Saturday march protesting the use of GM crops and mosquitoes in that country. While event organizers claimed that over 1,000 people attended the protest, media coverage has been limited. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Fortune's Hallie Detrick examines Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's company name following completion of the $66 billion deal, questions whether removing the name is enough, highlights controversy surrounding Roundup brand

News: Radio ag news source reports Bayer reduces expected earnings from Monsanto purchase after German company forced to divest from various businesses worldwide; EU frustrating U.S. farmers, biotech companies with roadblocks to international approval for GM plants

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger pans yogurt brand FAGE's TV commercial touting its non-GMO verification, says message aimed at millennials, but points out no differences between GMO foods and non-GMO counterparts

News: Food Tank reports that TEEB for Agriculture & Food has issued its preliminary "Scientific and Economic Foundations report," outlining environmental costs of food and agriculture production; calls for "true cost" accounting

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to submit comments to USDA on its proposed rule for labeling GE food, argues proposal fails in "every important respect," asks supporters to use text calling on USDA to reject package labeling with "unreliable" QR codes, also to reject labeling terms of

"bioengineered" or "be"

Study: Annual Review of Nutrition publishes article by U.S. and Canadian university researchers examining attitudes towards GE foods, suggesting much of lay opposition to GE food morally based, while attitudes of many people toward GE food follow "magical" law of contagion

More North America items

Africa

News: Senegalese news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO protest in Burkina Faso, in response to proposal to import and release GE mosquitoes, Citizen Collective for Agro-Ecology raised concerns about serious consequences for humans and the environment

News: VOA Afrique reports on recent protest in Ouagadougou where over 1,000 demonstrators voiced opposition to introduction of GMOs in Burkina Faso, defending "a healthy and independent agriculture"

News: Uganda's New Vision reports on Molecular Laboratory National Crops Resources Research Institute (NACRRI) cassava researcher Henry Wagaba's call on gov't to expedite passage of biosafety bill, noting farmers can not access resistant cassava varieties without regulations

News: Kenya's Business Daily reports on Agriculture and Food Authority's (AFA) support of Bt cotton adoption, noting potential to triple production and create up to 600,000 jobs in farms and apparel factories, Bt cotton is currently undergoing field trials

Commentary: Sabrina Masinjila of African Centre for Biodiversity recounts recent GMO awareness seminar organized by Tanzanian small farmers' network MVIWATA, Institute of Integrative Biology's Angelika Hilbeck claimed GMOs have failed to live up to promises

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Writing for The Ecologist, Colin Todhunter argues Bayer's purchase of Monsanto ratchets up corporate power over farming, food, will leave farmers and consumers facing more GMOs and pesticides, less choice, deeper price-gouging; he insists agroecology only alternative to corporate system

News: India news outlets reports on Bayer's announcement that it will complete its acquisition of Monsanto on June 7; Press Trust of India notes that Monsanto will not retain its company name

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Bayer announces plans to close its acquisition of Monsanto on June 7, Monsanto will no longer be a company name, Bayer Crop Science President Liam Condon issued statement on how the combined companies will boost agricultural innovation

Commentary: Germany's Suddeutsche Zeitung runs op-ed arguing few will be sorry to see Monsanto go after Bayer purchase, insisting company's name stands for what people find bad about globalization, citing decades of legal disputes, alleged health hazards

News: Spain's El Pais consolidates wire service reports that Bayer will abolish Monsanto brand after purchase, says U.S. company's "terrible global image" means group to use Bayer name only, cites huge protests around globe over Monsanto products, policies

News: European news outlets report on Bayer's announcement that it will not retain Monsanto brand following completion of the merger, expected to close on June 7

Commentary: Gregory Rozieres writes for HuffPost France, questions why Monsanto is so hated when other companies like Dow, DuPont and Syngenta have similar histories, highlights high profile coverage

of Monsanto's efforts to discredit its detractors

Event: German NGO Aktion Agrar promotes bicycling tour June 15 through 17 through farms of Lower Saxony to see dairy operations that don't use soy feed from overseas, grow their own organic crops for feed without pesticides

News: La France Agricole reports on three French and European studies that invalidate results of Seralini's infamous rat study, French Association of Plant Biotechnology (AFBV) notes long-term studies do not show any toxic effects of GM corn

Event: European Food Safety Authority to host 5th Roundtable with industry associations (June 13, 2018) in Brussels to discuss administrative, scientific and communication improvements to increase transparency and dialogue during the risk assessment process

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Mexico's anti-trust agency orders Monsanto-Bayer to disinvest in GMO cotton seed business, all their vegetable seed businesses; regulators say moves needed to prevent Bayer from becoming Mexico's only provider of GMO cotton seeds, obtaining large market share of vegetable seeds

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on letter from European honey importer group, Naturland cooperative, to Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, asking him to take measures to prevent contamination by GM soy

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: International Seed Federation announces launch of ISF World Seed Congress 2018 in Brisbane, Australia, ISF President Jean-Christophe Gouache emphasized seed industry's mission of unlocking potential of genetic resources to produce more while using less

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 4, 2018
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 4 02:47 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

In 2014, a Russian-backed outfit promised the world's most comprehensive study into the safety of genetically modified crops and glyphosate. Despite plenty of hubbub about its plans, *BuzzFeed* reports that it never delivered.

The Ramazzini Institute pumped out a series of papers claiming to show glyphosate is dangerous, only to be received by European government regulators as a promulgator of junk science.

The Non-GMO Project portrays itself as an organization dedicated to educating consumers, but *Agweek* criticized its labeling practices as misleading.

All these deceptive tactics are explored in pieces highlighted in this week's Stories Worth Sharing. Other articles describe the push by young Ugandans for biotechnology, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of Golden Rice and a report estimating the financial impact of China's delays in approving biotechnology products.

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: National Association for Genetic Safety

A new report from *BuzzFeed* raises the question of what happened to the now overdue

Stories Worth Sharing

Dan Vergano: Russian group's promise for world's largest GMO study seems to have been a ruse

Lominda Afedraru: Youth in Uganda demand lawmakers embrace science, technology and innovation

Hank Campbell: Europeans have figured out the Ramazzini Institute's junk science on glyphosate

Sandhya Ramesh: Approved by U.S. FDA, Golden Rice could solve vitamin A deficiency in Asia

Jonathan Knutson: Non-GMO Project's labeling of non-GMO salt is "downright deceptive"

Amanda Zaluckyj: Farmers don't "drown" or "douse" their fields with pesticides

Gregory Bond: Like other chemicals, regulation of suspected endocrine disruptors should be based on risk instead of hazard

Andrew Newhouse: Biotechnology safely bringing back the American

Factor GMO study that was billed as the definitive investigation into the safety of genetically modified foods and glyphosate.

Promoted in 2014 as a three-year, $25 million study, any trace of the Factor GMO project has fallen off the map. A board member for the study told *BuzzFeed* he knows nothing about where the project stands, and Factor GMO isn't responding to inquiries.

The Moscow-based National Association for Genetic Safety (NAGS) was one of the key organizers of the Factor GMO launch.

Click HERE to learn more about NAGS and Factor GMO.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

chestnut tree

Reuters: Report finds China's slow biotech approvals costing U.S. companies $7 billion

Jenny Schlecht: Agriculture supporters #BakingWithBetty after science-based support of GMOs by Betty Crocker

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What's Trending?

Study estimates financial impact of China delaying biotech product approvals

Canada opens 90-day comment period on plan to phase out many uses of imidacloprid

Macron administration pledges to keep pursuing glyphosate phase-out despite exclusion from France's food bill

European Commission launches pollinator initiative that includes plan to strengthen pesticide risk assessments

Whole Foods Market delays plan to require GMO labeling with USDA proposal still in flux

Calendar highlights

June 7	June 7-8	June 8
European Parliament pesticide commiffee to hear testimony from EFSA, ECHA, Chris Portier	Mid-South Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference	Pesticide Action Network Europe conference on creating pesticide-free towns

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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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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a *BuzzFeed* report on Factor GMO, a Russian-led, three-year study on GMOs that raised money and disappeared. Kenya announced plans to revamp its textile industry, and part of its plan involves move to commercialize Bt cotton. The Australian and New Zealand governments are considering using gene drive technology to eradicate exotic species that threaten to wipe out native species.

- *BuzzFeed's* Dan Vergano reported it's been more than three years since a Russian group announced a three-year, $25 million, independent study on GMOs. However, everything except the website, which still accepts donations, has disappeared. This led Vergano to question if the study was Russian propaganda against GMOs like *Russia Today*'s "The Peril on Your Plate." **See more**
- An Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization official, Charles Waturu, announced plans to revitalize Kenya's textile industry, with a goal of increasing revenue from $35 million to $20 billion. The plan initially will rely on hybrids to increase yields, but Waturu there are plans to field test and commercialize Bt cotton. **See more**
- *Australian Broadcasting Corp.* reported the federal government is considering using gene drive technology to control or eradicate feral cats and protect native species the cats prey on. *The New Zealand Herald* also reported the New Zealand government is considering the technology to fight non-native rats, stoats, and opossum, which threaten to wipe out thousands of bird, reptile and fish species. **See more**

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North America

News: BuzzFeed reports on Russia's Factor GMO project, which was launched in 2014 and has since disappeared, University of California, Irvine's Bruce Blumberg was on the project's board but has heard nothing, highlights possibility that it was propaganda

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science promotes Rothamsted Research's field trials of two lines of gene-edited Camelina plants for increased omega-3 production, potentially impacting sustainable intensification of agriculture

Commentary: Leslie Nemo of Futurism examines U.S. FDA's recent approval of golden rice, highlights the long approval process and opposition, notes U.S. approval brings golden rice one step closer to those who need it most

Commentary: Issues in Science and Technology journal runs piece co-written by Henry I. Miller arguing FDA overreaching with regulation of animals modified using molecular GE techniques, has been disaster for R&D advances in entire sector, calling for White House to bring rationality to oversight of biotechnology products

News: Inhabitat reports more than 60 percent of millennials demand non-GMO food options, 68 percent willing to pay more for organic

News: Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting examines U.S. farmers' reluctance to transition to organic in spite of rising demand and higher profits, due to the costly and strict transition process, highlights reports of imports of fraudulent organic products

Commentary: Popular Science warns consumers that GMOs, any technology developed by Big Ag is inherently suspicious, should be avoided; quotes Jayson Lusk, Perdue economist, that GMOs can be avoided; Dominique Brossard, from University of Wisconsin-Madison, Glenn Stone agree new US labeling law unclear to consumers

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization reacts to Informa report on "The Impact of Delays in Chinese Approvals of Biotech Crops," which finds significant economic impacts; NGO calls for long-term solution so United States, China, rest of world can benefit economically from biotech products

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports National Crops Resources Research Institute's biotechnology labs working on solutions to cassava diseases, but farmers cannot grow bioengineered varieties because of delays in approving biosafety law

News: Chinese news agency Xinhua reports Kenya plans to ramp up cotton production to dramatically increase textile industry income, includes plans for Bt cotton field trials, commercialization

Interview: Environmentalist Nnimmo Bassey explains to Premium Times government should oppose GMOs because they reduce plant diversity, pose a threat to human health from pesticide use, monopolize food system

Commentary: London-based Tanzanian writer/musician writing in Tanzanian newspaper warns introduction of GMO crops into Africa will harm small farmers by bringing in large-scale agriculture, driving up farming costs

Commentary: African news site reports activists march against Monsanto, GMOs on June 2 in Ouagadougou, claim Bt cowpea will cause food poisoning; credits first march in 2015 with ending Bt cotton cultivation

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Fortune India deputy editor points out Bt cotton helped make India world's largest cotton producer, cut farmers' costs through pesticide use reduction; points out recent policies endanger continued success by discouraging innovators from investing in research and development

News: Filipino tech news site reports vitamin A-rich golden rice will soon be available in the Philippines, following recent approvals by international food regulators, highlights Philippine Rice Research Institute's development of local varieties with the trait

Interview: Vietnamese professor tells Vietnam news site that GMOs are positive development because they improve yield, farmer income but should be evaluated cautiously because there could be threat to environment, health

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters amplifies German news outlet report that Bayer set to close Monsanto takeover on Thursday

News: The European Scientist reports research team bio-engineered tobacco to over-produce H-protein,

led to crop production increases of 27 to 47 percent by speeding up photorespiration; notes genetic modification could lead to higher yields in food crops

News: EU Observer reports European Commission leaving it up to Member States to come up with "strategic plans" for achieving goals of Common Agriculture Policy, such as reductions in greenhouse gases, but environmental groups criticize approach, warn environment "cannot survive" another decade of intensive agriculture

News: The Poultry Site reports Swedish Poultry Meat Association members barred from using GMO soya in feed, antibiotics critical in human health

Commentary: NGO GM-free Scotland discusses development of GM brewers yeast in California that would allow craft brewers to create beer with yeast alone, no hops needed; NGO urges people to avoid drinking beer made with "GM micro-fungus related to lot of diseases"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news agency reports scientist Francisco Bolivar Zapata says GM crops increase yields, increase farmer income, does not negatively impact the environment or health

News: Brazilian news site reports that a review of 118 published scientific articles examining allergenic effects of GM foods found they do not cause more allergies than normal food and also do not promote allergies in people who are not allergic

News: La Jornada reports National Autonomous University of Mexico's Elena Alvarez says government must stop "toxic" GM corn from reaching Mexican tables and contaminating native corn species

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports government considering using gene drive technology to control feral cat population in attempt to save native animals, but scientists say there are risks,

News: The New Zealand Herald reports government considering using biotechnology to wipe out invasive predators by 2050; officials question whether enough funding available without biotechnology breakthrough

More Oceania items

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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.S. Right to Know allegations that corporations funded front groups to spin bad news and defend biotechnology.

- The U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan claimed that emails obtained via the Freedom of Information Act show that Monsanto and other biotech companies funded groups such as Academics Review and the International Food Information Council. Malkan said the groups helped counteract bad news such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer's ruling that glyphosate is a potential carcinogen and helped promote GMOs to schoolchildren. **See more**
- Gene editing developments included talks about mitigating climate change and a partnership that seeks to reduce stress in dairy cows. The National Institute of Agricultural Technology's scientific leaders met yesterday, and Argentina's Santiago del Solar discussed using gene editing to mitigate climate change's impact on crops and livestock. Canadian farming news site *Farmtario* reported Semex, a farmer-owned company, and genetic engineering firm Recombinetics will partner to produce gene-edited, hornless dairy cows. The hornless cows save farmers time and money because they do not have to de-horn the cows, which prevents pain and stress for the livestock. **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: Canadian farming news site reports on partnership between Canadian dairy genetics company Semex and Minnesota-based Recombinetics for research on using gene editing to breed polled dairy cattle, with goal of reducing stress on young calves

News release: University of Essex, University of Illinois scientists publish study in Plant Biotechnology Journal which finds that by increasing a naturally occurring protein in plant leaves they can boost yields of major food crops by almost 50 percent

News release: National Pork Board promotes participation of Minnesota pork producer in gene editing panel at CRISPRcon (June 4-5), notes Health and Mother Earth Foundation's Nnimmo Bassey to also attend

Commentary: Alexis Baden-Mayer and Ronnie Cummins of Organic Consumers Association warn about negative impact of the 2018 Farm Bill on the organic industry, criticizing the House bill for undermining power of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Commentary: Natural News' Mike Adams accuses Whole Foods of betraying its customers in delaying its promise to label all foods containing GMOs in 2018, describes Whole Foods as "just as evil as Monsanto and Google" and "the Enron of the grocery industry"

Commentary: Byron Wien of investment firm The Blackstone Group examines potential threat to U.S. economic leadership posed by China's rapid technological advances, highlights China's advances in

biotech and gene editing in medical and agricultural research

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Writing for the Genetic Literacy Project, science journalist reports Ugandan scientists are striving to use biotech to solve ag, health and environmental challenges

Commentary: Editorial in Afrik promotes Slow Food's partnership with Burkinabe NGO Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroecologie (CCAE) to fight against GMOs in Burkina Faso, highlights protest march in Ouagadougou on June 2, points to health and environmental risks

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity voices deep concern at Parliamentary Select Committee's approval of "draconian corporate seed bills," claims they will threaten biodiversity and criminalize saving, exchanging, and selling of farm-saved seed

Commentary: Editorial in Afrik promotes Slow Food's partnership with Burkinabè NGO Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroécologie (CCAE) to fight against GMOs in Burkina Faso, highlights protest march in Ouagadougou on June 2, points to health and environmental risks

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Takshashila Institution research analyst Shambhavi Naik writes for India's The Wire, examines several potentially beneficial applications of gene editing in India, emphasizes importance of policies that promote research and ensure safety

News: World-Grain.com reports Golden Rice completes third positive food safety evaluation from US FDA, notes this comes on the heels of FSANZ and Health Canada safety and nutrition approvals earlier this year,

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies article in Southwest Farm Press reporting on increasing bollworm resistance to Bt cotton in Texas, notes that while experts recommend pesticides, bollworms have demonstrated chemical resistance as well

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: German anti-GM NGO biologist says Bayer-Monsanto merger will place majority control of seed trait business under German companies Bayer, BASF; predicts companies will not stray from "ecologically questionable, industrial agriculture"

News release: Germany's Gen-ethical network promotes its contributions to newly-launched German Center for Genetic Engineering and Environment (FGU), a new support group for NGOs in genetic engineering processes

News: U.K.-based Farmers Guardian contributor reports University of Hertfordshire researchers say an important source of gene resistance against one of the leading pathogens of oilseed rape is becoming less effective, which could lead to substantial losses to the OSR breeding industry and to arable farmers in the UK

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Argentina's Ministry of Agribusiness announces conclusion of MACS-G20 meeting, Ministry Chief of Staff Santiago del Solar emphasized importance of investing in ag technology to

mitigate effects of climate change

News: Mexico news agency reports UNAM ecologist warns against transgenic corn adoption, arguing it discards 500-year development of native corn, presents health risks; urges skepticism of science backed by economic interests

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 30, 2018
Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:13 03 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 report quantifying the economic costs of China's delays in approving biotechnology events.

- A new report from Informa Business Consulting Group and CropLife International highlighted the costs of China's slow biotechnology approval process, estimating that U.S. businesses had lost over $7 billion. *Reuters* reported that U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was expected to visit Beijing this week and noted that U.S. businesses were also concerned about intellectual property theft. Additional reporting on the study from *Agri-Pulse* and *Feedstuffs* noted that trade officials were expected to raise the issue in upcoming talks. **See more**
- The Seattle law firm Marler Clark's Food Safety News, quoting a USDA economic analysis, reported that U.S. GMO labeling regulations are expected to cost companies between $600 million and $1.3 billion in the first year of implementation. Editor-in-chief Dan Flynn noted that the costs come despite international scientific consensus on GM crop safety. The comment period on the proposed labeling closes July 3. **See more**

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

North America

News: Reuters reports CropLife International report says China's delays in approving biotech crops costs U.S. $7 billion over last 5 years, theft of intellectual property also an issue; notes commerce secretary set to visit Beijing

News: Agri-Pulse amplifies Informa study, says China's "deliberately slow biotech approval process" costs U.S. farmers, exporters, seed companies, others billions in lost sales; notes China is only country insisting on asynchronous biotech approval process, Ag Secretary Perdue plans negotiations on the issue

News: Food Safety News reports GM labeling program will cost food industry, consumers $600 million to $3.5 billion per year, potentially more than U.S. spends on food safety, even though NAS study shows GE food safe to eat and is good for the environment

Audio: USDA's Rod Bain examines potential of GE food in the developing world, Margaret Zeigler of Global Harvest Initiative explains GE applications to boost nutrient content, Tom Sleight of U.S. Grains Council calls for education of regulators and consumers

News: AgNet West reports on California Department of Food and Agriculture's approval of $3.4 million in funding for six research projects related to Pierce's Disease (PD), and nine projects for other viruses, including breeding of PD-resistant wine grapes

Campaign: Organic-oriented National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition announces National Institute for Food and Agriculture offers funding to research long-tern agricultural sustainability, says projects sought to address climate change, diminishing land and water resources, pests and disease, health challenges

Commentary: In Wisconsin State Farmer, National Pork Board promotes upcoming CRISPRcon presentation by former National Pork Producers Council president, Randy Spronk, highlights potential of CRISPR to protect pigs from Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome

Commentary: University of Amsterdam psychology professor Bastiaan T Rutjens writes for Aeon, analyzes research by Stephan Lewandowsky and Sydney Scott showing that distrust of genetic modification is not correlated with political ideology

Commentary: Common Dreams says corporations win as Bayer's Monsanto purchase gains approval from Trump's Department of Justice; Friends of Earth calls it "toxic mega merger," classifies divestiture requirements as weak

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site Daily Trust reports country's biotech agency seeks Interpol collaboration to ensure the agency is alerted when biotech crops enter country without biosafety permit to determine country of origin and those involved

News: Nigerian business news site reports biofortified crops can help fill in nutritional gap missing in poor people's diet; notes study shows biofortified foods dramatically improve vitamin A intake

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Brazilian cooperative Terra Livre exhibits organic and environmentally friendly products that avoid pesticide use, genetic modifications at largest Chinese food innovation fair in Shanghai

Commentary: Science academy president, former Higher Education Commission chair editorializes on Pakistani news site that country should transition to knowledge economy, says first step is focus on agricultural biotech and genomics to increase crop yields, create crops resistant to diseases, drought, salt

News: Indian news site reports Indian farmers group using social media to demand GM seeds, share knowledge of GM crops as government cracks down on use of unapproved varieties

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French blogger warns GMOs used in candy targeted at children, alerts readers to Greenpeace list of GM candy from 2017

News: French news site reports Monsanto's $125 million deal with Pairwise will produce GM strawberries, wheat, other products, claims GMOs are heavily criticized for "potential health risks"

News release: NGO France Nature Environnement criticizes French food bill, saying small advances. such as stronger GM food labeling requirements, do not make up for bigger failures, such as failing to ban glyphosate and ban on pesticide application near residential areas

Announcement: FAO Director Jose Graziano calls for transformation in how we produce food, based on sustainable systems that produce safe, nutritious food while safeguarding biodiversity

News release: EU Green Party complains GM crops enter EU as "flawed authorization process" is undergoing reform; MEP Pascal Durand wants GMO decision making to be "more transparent and democratic"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Chile BIO notes experiments show GM algae in outdoor ponds can be modified to produce anything from cattle feed to airplane fuel, notes University of California - San Diego researchers working to make process less expensive

Commentary: Environmental analyst writing for Mexico's Animal Politico examines 2018 presidential candidates environmental agendas, notes none of the candidates address transgenics, which she finds surprising given 90 percent of Mexican tortillas are said to be "contaminated" with GMOs

Announcement: Latin American NGO Semillas de Identidad notes during Latin American Agroecological Movement meeting group commit to defend agroecology, food sovereignty, urge peace between Colombian government and FARC

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: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:04:53 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 over the past two days included news that the U.S. Department of Justice officially approved Bayer's takeover of Monsanto. An amendment to France's food law adopted on Monday would require labeling when animals were fed GMOs.

- The Antritrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice announced today that it had approved Bayer AG's purchase of Monsanto Co., emphasizing the seed and chemical divestitures required in order the approve the takeover. A Department of Justice news release noted that this was the largest asset sale ever required by the agency. In separate reports, the European Commission announced that it had officially approved BASF as the buyer of seed and chemical assets being sold by Bayer and Monsanto. **See more**
- On Monday, French news outlets reported that the country's National Assembly had approved an amendment to the country's food and agriculture bill that would require foods to be labeled for "environmental" concerns. Specifically, by 2023, food companies would be required to disclose whether animals had eaten genetically-modified feed and to disclose the number of pesticide applications used on fruits and vegetables. **See more**
- Media outlets continued to amplify a U.S. Food and Drug Administration statement affirming the safety of "Golden Rice" variety GR2E. Writing for the Cornell Alliance for Science, science communicator Mark Lynas highlighted the potential applications in Bangladesh and the Philippines. Commentary in India's *The Print* accused campaigners against the rice variety of being both misinformed and politically motivated. **See more**

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North America

News release: Bayer announces U.S. Department of Justice grants conditional approval of Monsanto acquisition, Bayer expects to receive any outstanding approvals shortly, CEO Werner Baumann noted Bayer is closer to goal of creating a leading ag company

Commentary: FDA's Director of Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Office of Food Additive Safety, Dennis M. Keefe writes letter to International Rice Research Institute, stating that FDA has no further questions about human or animal food derived from golden rice

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, welcomes U.S. FDA's approval of golden rice, International Rice Research Institute Director General Matthew Morell noted the positive assessment brings golden rice closer to reaching those who need it most

News release: Recombinetics announces partnership with Canadian-based cattle genetics organization Semex to launch precision breeding program to develop hornless dairy cattle, with goal of improving animal health and well-being

Commentary: Astrobiologist David Warmflash writes for Genetic Literacy Project, poses question of why new breeding techniques like CRISPR are banned from organic farming in spite of improved sustainability, amplifies Italian research paper on the subject

Commentary: Jon Fingas of Engadget examines recent study demonstrating potential of CRISPR to boost rice grain production by 25-31 percent, notes researchers still must determine whether it will work in varieties favored by farmers, and that concerns must be addressed

Campaign: Friends of the Earth urges supporters to tell USDA they want clear, on-package GMO labels, voices objections to use of terms "BE" and "bioengineered," arguing that consumers will not recognize them

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's goal of collaborating with Interpol and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to boost capacity for ensuring safe application of modern biotech

News release: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) announces signing of training agreement with Italy-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to boost staff capacity for biotech regulation

News release: Health of Mother Earth Foundation voices opposition to President Muhammadu Buhari and former President Olusegun Obasanjo's agreement that Nigeria should adopt modern biotech, claims GMOs will worsen economic, health and environmental problems

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity and PELUM Swaziland criticize Swaziland Environmental Authority's (SEA) authorization of importation and commercial release of Bt cotton, highlights ACB's warnings at recent National Biosafety Indaba

News release: Burkina Faso's National Biosafety Agency participated in recent biotech and biosafety workshop organized by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa, speakers addressed biotech applications, Target Malaria project and regulatory issues

News: Kenya's Daily Nation reports farmers hope for lifting of ban on GMO cotton so they can plant Bt varieties that promise better yields, would help Kenyan producers access more of U.S. market

News: Farmers Review Africa reports on assessment by Kenya's Cereals Growers Association (CGA) researcher James Njiru that GM seeds may provide a viable solution to fall armyworm attack, noting no pesticides have proven effective

Commentary: Jeffrey Gogo of Zimbabwe's The Herald examines various solutions to fall armyworm invasion, notes companies like Monsanto have escalated their push for GM crops, highlights health risks of glyphosate, promotes push-pull intercropping technology

News: Uganda's New Vision reports experts in food risk assessment want government to include measures in biotechnology and biosafety bills to assure public foods produced through biotech safe for human consumption; GM crops now in confined field trials will be ready for farmers when bill becomes law

Commentary: University of Cape Town honorary research associate David Fig writes for The Conversation, calls on South Africa to reverse "corporate capture" of ag policy, claims use of GMOs and pesticides harms the environment, promotes agroecology

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Economic Times reports on farmer-led 'Agitation for Freedom to use Technology' in Maharashtra, as farmers indicate they will use illegal herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds, farmers' group Shetkari Sangathana passed a resolution to support their decision

Commentary: India's Down To Earth writer reflects on court ruling Monsanto's GM cotton seeds can't be patented, argues revocation of patent doesn't help farmers let down by Bollgard II technology, now seen as useless as resistant pink bollworm ravages county's cotton fields

News: India's The Hitavada reports on Maharashtra Gov't order allowing only 370 Bt cotton varieties from 42 companies to be sold in the state in 2018, following widespread pest attacks in 2017, and revelation that Bt cotton seeds were sold under multiple brand names

Commentary: Canadian anti-glyphosate activist Tony Mitra posts "rant" against other anti-GMO activists, including Jeffrey Smith, Vandana Shiva, Steve Druker; alleges mass glyphosate poisoning is underway in India

News: Food Navigator reports on Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) plans to finalize its new food labeling regulations within two to three months, Coalition for a GM-Free India objects to its GMO labeling measure, noting GM foods are illegal

Commentary: Sandhya Ramesh of India's The Print promotes golden rice as a tool to help solve vitamin-A deficiency in Asia, highlights U.S. FDA's recent approval, notes the campaign against golden rice was partly misinformed and partly politically motivated

News: The Manila Times reports GM Golden Rice expected to reach consumers soon after food regulators including FDA, Health Canada found it fit to eat; after approval it will be accessible to the estimated 250 million preschool-age children with Vitamin A deficiency

News: United News of Bangladesh amplifies IRRI news release announcing world's three leading regulatory agencies, including U.S. FDA, give safety and nutrition approvals for Golden Rice; Bangladesh and Philippines at forefront of releasing first Golden Rice variety, pending Bangladesh regulatory approval

More Asia items

Europe

News release: French farmers' union Coordination Rurale applauds new law that will require labeling of GMOs, farming methods, geographical origin for animal food, starting in 2023; complains that commitments to protect French consumers, farmers don't go far enough

Commentary: NGO France Nature Environnement applauds own role in campaign demanding lawmakers make environmental labeling of food mandatory; amendment adopted to take effect Jan. 1, 2023, will require labeling of foods from animals fed with GMOs, treatments with plant protection products

News: French media report National Assembly adopts amendments to national food-ag bill, introduce labels on products from animals fed GM feed, listing pesticide treatments on produce

Event: Germany's Leibniz Institute for Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina to host June 4 public lecture by Julius Kuhn Institute on topic of "Organic and green genetic engineering - is that possible?"

Commentary: Ollie Wright of The Conservative Woman (U.K.) praises reports that gene edited crops will be grown in Britain, believes it will help the U.K. develop a competitive advantage over anti-GMO EU member states, notes GMO opposition has little to do with science

Commentary: Giovanni Cervi Ciboldi of Italy's Mondo Padano amplifies ISPRA report showing that pesticide pollution in water, air and soil has significantly lessened, and that GM seeds can allow for another leap forward, criticizes alarmism and decontextualized data

News: Norwegian news source reports biotechnology council's deadline for inclusion in new genetic engineering law expires; animal breeding groups deliver consultation statement calling for law that allows use of new technologies safely, labeling of CRISPR-produced foods as GE instead of GMO

Commentary: Writing in New Eastern Outlook, author F. William Engdahl says Austria's new coalition

government betrays voters on CETA, calls it major betrayal of future of EU sovereign national laws; claims CETA would allow unlabeled GMO salmon from Canada to be sold across Europe

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's Agrovoz highlights Bayer's ongoing purchase of Monsanto, compares upcoming explosion in agricultural innovations to discovery of computing, rise of Internet in global economy, calls expected deal major event in history of global agri-food production

Interview: Argentina's Pagina 12 interviews Marie-Monique Robin, director of "Roundup Facing its Judges" documentary, she notes that Monsanto and its lawyers reviewed her book, "The World According to Monsanto," and could not find anything to bring her to trial

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Riveiro writes for Mexico's La Jornada, warns about potential dangers of CRISPR, highlights Australian research team's discovery of new DNA structures, and Swiss researchers' inadvertent creation of a new pathogenic virus

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during this monitoring period. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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

Events calendar

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Latest updates online

Memorial Day

Due to the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, your Global Biotech Snapshot will not be delivered today. For the latest monitoring updates, please click the link below.

BIOTECH UPDATES

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 28, 2018
Date: Monday, May 28, 2018 4:05:18 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights commentary on variety of current food and agriculture topics, including the use of CRISPR to fight a critical citrus disease, discussion of how organic farms could harm the environment, reaction to the selection of a new leader by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and criticism of Scotland's policy against GMOs.

Other items offer praise for U.S. regulators' GMO labeling proposal and favorable review of Golden Rice.

To view items on this newsleffer, 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: Made Safe

Made Safe, also known as Nontoxic Certified, is a registered non-profit involved in advocacy against endocrine-disrupting chemicals and pesticides in North America.

It offers a "made safe" certified seal tied to the for-profit consultancy Veritey Consulting, which is run by the same co-founders, Amy Ziff and Adrienne

Stories Worth Sharing

Mark Lynas: Scotland's stance against GMOs a "travesty" for science, with trickle-down effect in other countries

Yi Li: CRISPR technique offers potential solution to citrus greening

Robert Paarlberg: Increasing organic food production could harm environment by destroying wildlife habitat

Amanda Zaluckyj: USDA's proposed GMO labeling guidelines are brilliant, casting bioengineered foods in a positive light

Henry Miller: European neonic ban based on fabricated studies, rigged regulatory review

Louis Auge: Selection of Weiderpass as IARC leader dashes optimism agency would change its ways

ACSH: Golden Rice gets favorable evaluation from U.S. regulators

Alex Berezow: Betty Crocker stands up to hysteria, proclaims "GMOs are safe"

Tom Whipple: Scientists skeptical of claims "obesogen" chemicals cause obesity

Joseph Opoku Gakpo: Mozambique citizens seem ready to accept GMOs

Peres.

Made Safe just released its Hazards List, which says GMOs, high-risk pesticides and endocrine disruptors, as well as numerous other chemicals, materials and ingredients, are excluded from being in any product it certifies. It noted it follows Pesticide Action Network's list of highly hazardous pesticides.

Click HERE to learn more about the Made Safe.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Scientists debunk claims GMOs are causing cancer in Ghana

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

National Assembly's consideration of food bill revives demands for France to end glyphosate usage within three years

Dalhousie University survey finds most Canadians want GMO labeling but don't understand whether GMOs are in their food

Thailand decides against ban on glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and paraquat but may pursue limits

Washington Post: Analysis sparks conversation over use of pesticides in organic farming

U.S. survey finds managed bee colony losses rose to 40 percent last year

Calendar highlights

May 29-30	May 29-30	May 31 - June 2
EU Food & Farm Forum	Horizon 2020 workshop - "Advancing Assessment of Chemical Mixtures and Their Risks for Human Health and the Environment"	Brazil National Meeting of Agroecology
May 31	June 1	June 4-7
Showing of Stephane Horel documentary "Endoc(t)rinement" at Friends of the Louvre EDC conference	Utrecht University obesogens researcher lecture: "Are Chemicals Making Us Fat?"	Biotechnology Innovation Organization international convention

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
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Date: Sunday, May 27, 2018 9:03:13 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 news that tests showed non-Bt cotton varieties in Pakistan now have the Bt gene. A news report indicted Organic Trade Association officials are troubled over the U.S. Department of Agriculture's attitude regarding organics.

- A Pakistani news site reported the Central Cotton Committee learned test results show all 15 widely cultivated non-Bt cotton varieties in the country now contain the Bt gene. The concern is that yields will drop due to growing resistance to the Bt toxin. *GMWatch* said this could be hindering output. **See more**
- *Politico* reported the OTA is moving on to an industry-driven project after the USDA eliminated the organic checkoff program. *Politico* noted OTA officials were upbeat about taking on the program but added, "it's clear that organic industry leaders are more than a little concerned about USDA's apparent change in course on organic policy." The article noted the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an agricultural spending bill that would include increased funding for agricultural research, including efforts to fight citrus greening. **See more**

Due to the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, May 29. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Marc Brazeau contends organic proponents' focus on pesticides distracts from more problematic ag impacts like land use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, says biotech led to rise in glyphosate use that decreased use of more toxic options

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse promotes new RT Documentary, "The Peril on Your Plate," which examines negative impact of GM crops in India, and health risks associated with glyphosate

News: Digital Trends reports on developments in CRISPR, highlights recent study by Purdue University and Chinese Academy of Sciences researchers which used CRISPR to boost rice grain yield by 25-31 percent

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health points out flaws in recent Science Advances study predicting that rising CO2 levels will result in a rice nutrition crisis, highlights efforts to develop GM rice with enhanced iron and zinc levels

News: Food & Environment Reporting Network reports Organic Trade Association shifts to private sector initiatives after USDA setbacks, noting plans to pilot project to prevent fraud in organic supply chain

News: Progressive Farmer's Washington Insider reports President Trump is pushing China to boost imports of U.S. ag products by $25 billion, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue noted talks include issues such as streamlining biotechnology approvals

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health reports US FDA approves Golden Rice, notes Greenpeace, NRDC fight Golden Rice approvals globally; notes IRRI working on healthier rice varieties

News: Politico Pro U.S. Morning Agriculture roundup reports Senate Appropriations Committee moves USDA-FDA spending bill to full chamber; bill to increase research investment in National Organic Program, citrus greening disease, geneticist for Atlantic salmon breeding program

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site says government is pressured to accept GM seeds to help farmers battle fall armyworm, note GM maize trials in Uganda have been successful

News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation founder challenges former Nigeria president's endorsement of biotech at OFAB program, argues GMOs won't ensure food security, compound health, environmental and socio-economic problems

Letter to the editor: Andrew Ibanda Waiswa writes to Uganda's Daily Monitor, calls on Parliament to pass the Biosafety Bill, notes farmers are losing crops to fall armyworm attack while being denied access to Bt corn technology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports USDA approves Golden Rice in safety evaluation; announcement follows FSANZ and Health Canada approval, could pave way for worldwide commercialization

Commentary: Indian novelist Manu Joseph writes for Mint, examines Mark Lynas' shift from anti-GMO activism to GMO supporter, highlights scientific consensus on safety, argues the successful defamation of GMOs comes down to activists being better storytellers

Letter to the editor: General physician writing to northeast India news site notes prevalence of glyphosate use since introduction of GM crops, cites Tony Mitra claims, IARC review, several studies to warn of negative health impacts from glyphosate exposure, stresses need to end use, switch to organic practices

News: Pakistani news site reports High Court directs Punjab gov't to produce resolution asking it to pass breeders' rights bill; counsel claims bill was passed without cabinet approval as required

More Asia items

Europe

Report: INRA releases analysis of glyphosate including research director GÃ©rard Pascal stating human health risks "not scientifically established," suggesting calls for removal of glyphosate based on anti-GMO perception, not scientific evidence

Commentary: France's Alerte Environnement examines French organic sector's dependency on pesticide use, highlights Socialist MEP Eric Andrieu's complaint that France surpasses other EU member states in requests for exemptions from pesticide restrictions

Commentary: Spanish news site claims scientists still know little about the genome, so it's arrogant to claim GMOs safe, quotes Salk Institute's David Schubert and from Steven Druker's book to claim assumptions GMO producers make are based on invalid assumptions, and do harm human health

Commentary: Paleontologist Jelle Reumer writes for Dutch news site, notes fall armyworm, highly destructive to crops, is approaching Europe and worrying farmers; notes some biotech crops are resistant to the pest, but points out EU is resistant to GM crop

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican political news site reports scientist Francisco Bolivar Zapata presented his book at National Autonomous University of Mexico, says it shows GM crops present great benefits without harming the environment or human health

News: Brazil TV station reports Brazil's Indaiatuba municipality releases 100,000 GM mosquitoes to reduce cases of dengue, zika and chikungunya; results to be monitored, released in 18 months

News: Mexican health food news site claims GMOs are hidden dangers because they cross-breed with organic crops; claims pesticides used on GM crops kill bees, butterflies, and birds, destroys their habitat, and pollutes water

News: Agencia EFE reports Monsanto official says Latin American agriculture's future linked to innovation; notes Mexican farmers' cotton yields exceeds U.S. farmers, shows what they can achieve using technology

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports Federated Farmers drops lawsuit against regional GM regulation despite the central government's responsibilities to regulate biotechnology

More Oceania items

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

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Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:03:57 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 coverage of a study by Dalhousie University on GMOs and GMO labeling in Canada. An Italian university filed a lawsuit against a Vatican newspaper, saying its statement that corporate money influenced a scientific study on GMOs is defamatory.

- Canadian press reported a Dalhousie University study shows most Canadians are uncertain whether they eat GM food and uncertain whether GMOs are healthy but want GM food labeling. The study's lead author, dean of management Sylvain Charlebois, said it's unlikely most Canadians have eaten GM food but aren't sure because the country has no labeling requirements. Charlebois said GMOs are safe but should be labeled for transparency. **See more**

- An Italian University, the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, filed a defamation lawsuit against the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano*, for claiming its study on GM corn was influenced by money from a corporation. A university official acknowledged the right to criticize and offer opposing scientific arguments "is sacrosanct." However, rector Pierdomenico Perata said alluding that scientific results are influenced by money from a multinational company is a defamation and must be prosecuted. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: AgriNews editorial warns about danger of allowing China to take the lead in ag research, lamenting stagnating ag research funding in the U.S., believes land grant institutions should be involved in gene manipulating technology

News: Food Navigator reports GE crops designed to produce omega 3 will ease pressure on fish stocks, but notes not all omega 3s are equal; professor believes biotech will have huge impact on industry

Commentary: American Council on Science, Health fellow applauds Betty Crocker for standing up to ignorance on GMO food safety, responding to complaint of company use of GMOs with tweet, â€˜GMOs are safe

News: New Scientist notes newer GM foods with consumer health benefits coming to market, including healthier potato and GM crops with omega 3; questions if new "superfoods" will win consumers over

News: Popular Science tells what to expect from federal GM labeling program, says studies show GMOs are safe, but people may avoid for other reasons; says labeling is at least step towards transparency

Commentary: Edsel Cook of Natural News accuses biotech and agrochemical companies of seeking to take over the world's food supply, warns about negative health and environmental risks of Enlist Duo

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter Amanda Zaluckyj praises USDA's draft GMO labeling rules, welcomes use of the term "bioengineered" and the positive labels, laments that companies can still label products as non-GMO without a GM counterpart

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports government starts Bt cotton trials, official predicts the variety will boost cotton yields up to eight times current levels

News: Nigerian news site reports Nigerian ex-president says biotech agriculture, other innovations needed to boost crop yields to sustain growing world population, address world hunger; notes if crop yields remain same, we'd need to cultivate 82 percent of the world's land by 2050

More Africa items

Asia

News: Financial Express reports Gujarat, India success in managing pink bollworm Bt cotton resistance sparks home Maharashtra where cotton groups are proactively campaign to educate farmers on bollworm management

News: English language South Korean news site reports activists demonstrations during March against Monsanto in Seoul protest use of GMOs, demand GM food labeling

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K. news site reports Mark Lynas criticizes Scotland's GM ban, says it harms poorest people in the world in countries where anti-GMO campaigners use Europe's anti-biotech stance to claim GMOs are harmful

News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports CRISPR can help change future of food and people through agriculture and medicine, but it comes with risks that scares some

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson notes GM potato field trial in Ireland find both GM and non-GMO, blight resistant potatoes reduced fungicide use 80 to 90 percent, says there;s no need for the GM potato

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news site reports Oxitec to begin releasing GM mosquitoes May 23 in trial test to reduce cases of dengue fever

Commentary: Mexican news site reports biotech research in Mexico held back due to interests of large corporations, but Universidad Michoacana will train socially responsible biotechnologists

Commentary: Glenn Makuta of Slow Food Brasil voices opposition to "poison package" bill, warns about negative impact of pesticide use on transgenic crops on human health and the environment, advocates promotion of agroecology

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 a GM beet field trial in Germany had been vandalized. Media outlets in the U.K. reported on a planned field trial of gene-edited canola. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced final implementation guidelines for the National Environmental Policy Act.

- European wire services reported that a field trial of GM beets in Bavaria had been destroyed. Local police report the vandalism could have taken place anytime between May 2-22 and requested anyone with information on the destruction come forward. **See more**
- Media outlets *The Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* reported on Rothamsted Research's recently announced field trials of GMO and gene-edited camelina plants. The reports noted activist group GM Freeze criticized regulators for offering a "free pass" to gene-edited crops without assessing their impacts on health and the environment. **See more**
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the final guidelines for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, noting that the rules included some exemptions for genetically engineered organisms. **See more**

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North America

News: Reuters reports U.S. seeking better access into China market for GM crops, says two sides are nearing trade deal that could mean China buying more U.S. farm products; currently country allows import only of GM feed

News release: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) publishes final rule amending its National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, new categorical exclusions are available for extending deregulations for GE organisms

Commentary: New Scientist notes several GM products that feature consumer benefits such as non-browning Arctic apple, bruise-resistant potato that's healthier when fried, pink pineapples with lycopene

News: Futurism reports on collaborative study by Purdue University and Chinese Academy of Sciences researchers using CRISPR/Cas9 to develop rice plants capable of producing 25 to 31 percent more grain, highlights USDA's recent statement on gene editing

Commentary: Bryan Kittman of San Diego Entertainer magazine examines pros and cons of GMOs, highlights environmental benefits such as reduced pesticide use, points to links to increased allergenicity and antibiotic resistance, criticizes corporate control

News: Food & Wine reports on Whole Foods' decision to delay policy requiring suppliers to label products containing GMOs by Sep. 1, 2018; citing anticipated standards by USDA, Whole Foods will continue to require third-party certification for non-GMO claims

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports former Nigerian president says during OFAB address the country must adopt innovative approaches such as agricultural biotech to have chance at ending world hunger in face of rapidly growing population

News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports Catholic Medical Practitioners of Nigeria chairman says precautionary approach needed for GMOs because food safety certification takes several decades since effects take place "at molecular genetic level"

Commentary: African journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, reports Mozambique residents look forward to adopting GM crops such as water-efficient maize, notes they already eat imported GMOs from South Africa; shopkeeper says they are more worried about having something on their plates

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: SEARCA reports Filipino legislators urge continued biotech advancement during opening of biotech exhibit, as House speaker says biotech crops will help alleviate food security, poverty, climate change issues; legislator says farmers in poor areas telling GM crop success stories

News: Pakistani news site reports biotech experts says country must align its biotechnology regulations according to Convention on Biological Diversity standards, including Cartagena and Nagoya protocols, to prevent impact on grain trade, technology introduction

News: Indian financial news site reports Mahahrashtra state government approves licenses for 370 varieties of Bt cotton, urges farmers to buy from the license companies in crackdown against illegal Bt cotton seed sales; licenses from up to 74 companies were not approved

More Asia items

Europe

News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports test field for genetically engineered plants destroyed in Germany, suspects not identified

News: German news site reports police investigating destruction of genetically modified beet field in trial study near Remlingen, Germany, affecting about 1,000 square meters

News: U.K.'s Daily Mail reports "scientists exploit legal loophole" to grow gene-edited camelina to produce Omega 3; reports experts say GM crops could lead to biodiversity loss; DEFRA minister says regulation not needed when crop could be attained with convention methods

News: U.K.'s The Telegraph reports scientists "exploit legal loophole" to field test gene-edited camelina plants adapted to produce Omega 3; critics claim DEFRA's decision pre-empts EU Court of Justice opinion, GM Freeze official says agency handed out free pass rather than put health, environment first

Announcement: Slow Food announces Slow Food Russia founding; official says they will protect Russian food heritage by publishing "Russian Ark of Taste" catalog and establishing Golden Snail Awards for clean products

Announcement: Netherlands-based Good Manufacturing Processes company wants feedback on proposed new standard for non-GMO feed that will enable companies to comply with market demand

Event: Spanish calendar site notes Vandana Shiva to speak on women for biodiversity and challenges presented by climate change at event in San Sebastian, Spain

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports European honey distributor association warns Mexico to put halt to GM soy cultivation, says it will harm the country's honey quality and impact exports to Europe; says GMOs and pesticides also present threat to bees

News: English language, Latin American news site reports European honey distributor warns Mexico on World Bee Day that planting GM soy and using pesticide in Yucatan could affect area's honey quality and exports to Europe

News release: Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) announces Curitiba will host 17th Conference on Agroecology from June 6-9, 2018, organized by over 40 popular movements and entities from ParanÃi, with goal of creating awareness about agroecology

Commentary: Ecuadoran news site editorial notes that labels stating products do not contain GMOs, preservatives, aspartame, or other ingredients play on our emotions, do not help us choose healthier products but entices us to believe those products are unhealthy

Commentary: Costa Rican university site contributor says agronomist Jaime Garcia Gonzalez claims GMOs promoted with misleading propaganda, says studies show they present risks to human health

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand Education Minister Chris Hipkins announces gov't partnership with University of Waikato to invest $13 million in new research program in Tauranga to tackle ag challenges, biotech expert Marie Magnusson will set up the program

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 Competition Commission of India has approved Bayer AG's purchase of Monsanto Co. Science communicators in Ghana refuted claims linking GM crops to cancer.

- India's fair trade regulator announced that it had approved Bayer's takeover of Monsanto, according to reports by *Reuters* and *Press Trust of India*. The news was announced via Twitter, with limited additional details. However, the government statement noted that the CCI had imposed unspecified conditions on the approval. **See more**
- Alliance for Science Ghana issued a statement refuting a local researcher's claims that GM foods were a leading cause of premature death. The group noted that the researcher's claims relied on a retracted and discredited French study, as well as a debunked internet hoax. Alliance for Science Ghana also criticized the Peasant Farmer Association of Ghana for amplifying these and other unfounded claims. **See more**
- German environmental NGOs, with the financial support of the federal agency for conservation, launched the Fachstelle Gentechnik und Umwelt (Center for Genetic Engineering and the Environment). The self-described advisory body will operate as a "clearinghouse" of information on regulatory and scientific developments in biotechnology, and it explicitly aims to include civil society perspectives on biotechnology and new plant breeding techniques. **See more**

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North America

News: The New Food Economy reports Whole Foods notifies its suppliers it will pause GMO food labeling requirements set to take effect Sept. 1, 2018; Whole Foods officials say suppliers concerned about complying with both company's requirements and newly proposed USDA rules

Commentary: University of Connecticut plant scientist Yi Li writes for The Conversation, describes his team's development of technique using CRISPR to create non-GMO citrus greening-resistant citrus trees using Agrobacterium

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts Mark Lynas blog amplifying study by Irish and Dutch researchers finding GE potato carrying gene to resist blight could help farmers cut use of fungicide sprays up to 90 percent, pointing out anti-GMO activists tried to stop trials

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA criticizes fear-based marketing that tells consumers to avoid products because brands use pesticides, GMOs, chemicals; emphasizes companies' failures to tell consumers what's good about their own brand

Commentary: National Hog Farmer blog applauds Betty Crocker for defending use of GM ingredients in its food products, wonders how food conversation would change if all food companies supported farmers' use of technology, calls GMO disclosure "refreshing"

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: John Awuku Dziwornu of Alliance for Science Ghana responds to Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's (PFAG) recent warnings about health risks of consuming GM foods, explains why PFAG's statements are completely false

News: Ghana's Joy reports on Alliance for Science Ghana's statement debunking recent claim by Dr. Nkosana Nartey that GMOs are cancer activators, AfS Ghana noted that cancer rates in the U.S. are lower than in Europe, where GM crops have not been adopted

Commentary: Canary Mugume of Uganda's NilePost examines debate surrounding GMO adoption and the nation's biosafety bill, highlights banana farmer Ann Sarah Igeme's struggles to control bacterial wilt, summarizes objections from various NGOs

News: Nigerian Tribune reports many studies prove GM crops to be better for environment than conventional crops, contrary to claims by anti-GMO activists; report notes some GM crops developed to resist weeds, insect pests, reducing need for sprays of pesticides

Commentary: United Nations Environment Programme celebrates International Biodiversity Day, highlights recent passage of Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports fair trade regulator CCI approves Bayer acquisition of Monsanto subject to compliance of "certain modifications"; deal would create world's largest seeds and pesticides firm; Monsanto has sold GM cotton seeds in India for more than decade

News: Reuters reports India's fair trade regulator CCI approves Bayer purchase of Monsanto, subject to compliance of "certain modifications"; CCI launched public consultation process this year to determine whether deal would have adverse impact on competition in India

News: Times of India reports the large quantity of illegal herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds seized by Maharashtra's ag department will be burned, Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (Mahyco) claimed ownership, noted the seeds were not meant for commercial sale

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: German environmental NGOs launch Fachstelle Gentechnik und Umwelt to assess regulatory and policy implications of new biotechnology developments, project supported by federal nature conservation agency

Announcement: EU Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) posts several documents containing programs and speaker contributions from recent hearings on new breeding techniques

Commentary: Rossella Muroni and Serena Pellegrino of Sinistra Italiana voice opposition to Giorgio Fidenato's continued planting of GM maize in spite of Italy's ban, they argue that Italy has the right under EU law to ban GMOs authorized at the EU level

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news sources report Agrarian Federation (FAA) objects to draft reform of Seed Law because it fails to include concept of "public order" as recognition of all intellectual property when

buying seed, would imply going back to present situations at beginning of last century

Commentary: Valdir Izidoro Silveira of Brazilian Communist publication Inverta warns readers about negative health effects of GMOs such as increased allergies and development of bacterial resistance, argues consumers have a right to transparent information

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Weekly Times profiles cotton farmer Renee Anderson, highlighting her work to educate children and communities about environmental benefits of GMOs, she points to reduction in pesticide use, laments use of children in inaccurate videos

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 21, 2018
Date: Monday, May 21, 2018 10:35:24 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

As previewed in last week's newsletter, the International Agency for Research on Cancer selected its new director, choosing Elisabete Weiderpass to replace Christopher Wild. Favorable Outcomes this week leads off with Hank Campbell's reaction to the predictable selection and some tips if Weiderpass wants to restore the agency's credibility.

We also highlight reaction to the new glyphosate claims promoted by the Ramazzini Institute - which, like IARC, was investigated by the U.S. Congress last year - and Henry Miller takes a closer look at neonic regulation in Europe as compared to the United States.

And with organic promoters kicking off Organic Week today in Washington, Paul Driessen examines claims that organic crops are superior and healthier to their genetically modified counterparts.

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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: Ramazzini Institute

The Italy-based Ramazzini Institute returned to the public eye last week when it announced it will publish three studies in the journal *Environmental Health* this month questioning the safety of glyphosate.

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: New director Weiderpass likely to keep status quo for IARC / But she should purge activists, increase transparency

Henry Miller on neonics: Europe takes "evidence-be-damned" approach / U.S. follows science, recognizes benefits

Marc Brazeau: "Lot of problems" with Ramazzini study claiming glyphosate is harmful, and with Guardian coverage of it

Paul Driessen: "Evidence strongly supports GE over organic crops" with better shelf life, lower prices

Lindsay Burgess: GMOs are good for farmers and the environment while posing no additional threat to human health

Angela Logomasini: U.S. EPA's Integrated Risk Information System overly cautious due to reliance on "outlandish assumptions"

L.M.K. Tillekeratne: Glyphosate ban based on "half-baked" science responsible for decline in rubber plantation productivity

Pamela Ronald: Feelings are an inescapable obstacle to public's perception of genetic modification

The enigmatic society, which has had its funding questioned previously by the U.S. House Science Committee, published manuscripts from its Global Glyphosate Study claiming that glyphosate-based herbicides alter sexual development, genotoxicity and the intestinal microbiome at doses considered safe by U.S. regulators. It continues to seek crowdfunding for an estimated 5 million euro campaign.

Ramazzini's work was quickly amplified by Greenpeace, the Organic Consumers Association, GMWatch, Generations Futures and The Greens/European Free Alliance. However, its work was questioned by academics in France and Belgium.

Click HERE to learn more about the Ramazzini Institute.

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Steven Cerier: USDA regulatory approach to gene-edited crops will slash development costs

Norwegian thesis project finds African farmers see GMOs favorably, are eager to adopt new technology

Irish research finds 80 to 90 percent reduction in fungicide applications with blight-resistant potato

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What's Trending?

March Against Monsanto protests in Europe, Latin America, North America draw limited media attention

World Bee Day attracts broad stakeholder interest, with FAO calling for agroecology to replace pesticide-based agriculture model

European court upholds neonic restrictions

U.S. lawmakers vote down Farm Bill proposal; environmentalists pleased pesticide regulations won't be rolled back

Calendar highlights

May 21-24	May 21-22	May 21-25
Organic Week	The Organic Center's Organic Confluences Summit	Fera Science 12th European Pesticide Residue Workshop
May 22	May 22-24	May 22
European Parliament Sustainable Use of Pesticides Conference	EDC-MixRisk Consortium Meeting	International Day for Biological Diversity
May 23-24	May 24	May 24-25
AgriChem & Technology LatAm	Organic Trade Association policy conference	Meeting of the European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

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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 on Argentina's decision to allow imports of GM crops not yet approved in the country.

- News outlets in Argentina reported on a decision by the country's agriculture ministry to allow imports of GM grains that had not yet been approved in the country in order to address shortages following months of drought. A government announcement on the new process noted that GM trait approvals are increasingly asynchronous and that international mechanisms had been created to address the issue. **See more**
- Writing in *Forbes*, legal consultants reviewed technicalities of the recent Delhi High Court judgement invalidating Monsanto's Bt cotton patents in India. The authors added that the ruling has "serious ramifications" for research investment in the country. **See more**

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North America

Event: Anti-GMO NGO Hawai'i SEED promotes "Protecting the Sacred" talks to be held May 24 in Hilo, May 25 in Honolulu, with speakers examining threat of "extreme" genetic engineering to Hawaiian biodiversity, traditional cultural practices; University of California-Berkeley's Ignacio Chapela featured

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides daily blog cites prevalence of private farming on refuge lands, claims pesticides harmful to wildlife, notes FWS ban of neonics on wildlife refuges, phaseout of GE crops to feed wildlife, urges supporters to sign petition demanding FWS eliminate pesticide use on refuge lands

News: Farm news source reports Syngenta and plaintiffs announce $1.51 billion settlement to resolve class actions and individual cases regarding Agrisure Viptera; cases allege Syngenta sold GM corn seeds to U.S. farmers even though genetic traits in those seeds hadn't yet been approved for import by China

More North America items

Africa

Video: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes video, "Spiritual and Cultural Value of Seed in South Africa," covering discussions from National Seed Dialogue and Celebration in December 2017

News: Nigeria News reports farmers pleased with performance of GM maize seeds that allow plants to thrive even in dry weather, notes concerns of most Nigerians about GMOs based on ignorance, natural aversion to scientific progress, points out some opponents believe eating GM foods harmful to health

Announcement: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency gives 21-day public notice on display of application dossier by company for importation of GM maize for feed processing; display aims to enable public to give input that would facilitate informed decision on application

Commentary: GhanaWeb columnist Benjamin Senyo Bey criticizes spread of misinformation about GMOs, notes it is holding Ghana back even as new technologies like CRISPR are being embraced all over the world, highlights many beneficial applications of gene editing

News: Kenya's Daily Nation reports on potential for Bt cotton to revive Kenya's textile industry, Roy Mugiira of National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) noted Bt cotton has reduced pesticide use and boosted incomes in other countries

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Rajdeep and Joyeeta Banerjee write for Forbes India, providing analysis of Dehli High Court ruling blocking Monsanto's patents on Bt cotton technology, they note the move could have serious ramifications for India's ag-biotech sector

News: Hindu in-depth report explores ways increased illegal GM cotton cultivation threatens country's cotton production, reveals regulatory shortfalls on GMOs

News: The Hindu reports on controversy over glyphosate use on Bt cotton in India: anti-glyphosate activist Tony Mitra calls on India to ban glyphosate unless it can prove its safety

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on GRAIN Indonesia's Kartini Samon's statement that GMOs cannot end world hunger, stop chemical use or boost farmer incomes, speaking at event organized by Institute of Community Entrepreneurship Development

News release: Philippine government news agency reports ag department officials lobby for more pro-biotech policy at biotech exhibition, urges legislators to learn about benefits, cultivate laws that will help address food security

News: Pakistan's UrduPoint reports federal minister for climate change conveys message on International Biodiversity Day being celebrated May 22, says nation prepared National Conservation Strategy, ratification of Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety helps curb negative impacts of biotech

More Asia items

Europe

News: Spain news source recap of agri-food conference highlights arguments from agriculture, produce trade group members for Spain, Europe to embrace biotech as strategy to keep EU self-sufficient in food, noting organic cannot feed population alone

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's Infocampo reports government creates system to facilitate importation of GM grains, with mechanism valid for four years until report on its result, merits; officials cite need to allow importation of GM grains to maximize use of agro-industrial sector's processing capacity

Announcement: Government of Argentina publishes resolution passed by City of Buenos Aires urging support for establishment of procedure for granting commercial authorization to GMOs with exclusive objective of being used as raw material for agro-industrial processing, for use as human and animal food

News release: Argentina ag-tech institute celebrates cotton day with presentation of three new transgenic cotton varieties in the field, notes crops modified to resist herbicides, disease, improve fiber

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The West Australian reports on launch of Producer Fighting Fund by WAFarmers and the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, with goal of raising $50,000 to defend industry reputation, highlights GM crop compensation inquiry as an example

More Oceania items

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the Missouri legislature approving a bill that would prohibit lab-grown or synthetic products from being described as meat. Protesters participated in the sixth international March Against Monsanto.

- The Missouri Cattlemens Association announced the state legislature passed a bill prohibiting describing a product as meat unless it is harvested traditionally from livestock. *Quartz* reported on the development. Nationally, a House subcommittee included a provision on an agricultural spending bill to give the U.S. Department of Agriculture authority to regulate how cell-cultured meat products are labeled and inspected for safety. **See more**
- International media reported activists participated worldwide in the March Against Monsanto to protest GMOs, pesticide use, the Bayer acquisition of Monsanto and agribusinesses. *Agence France-Presse* reported hundreds marched in Paris, and other sites reported marches in Switzerland, Portugal, Germany, Mexico, Argentina and Canada. **See more**

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North America

News: National Public Radio reports protypes for GMO food labels leave both Big Agriculture, GMO opponents dissatisfied; proposal also gives companies option of simply using QR code

News release: Canadian agriculture minister wraps up week-long China visit that include request for China to approve three GE canola traits to increase canola exports to China

News: Reuters reports Chinese buyers cancel orders of, balk at buying U.S. corn over worries regarding trade tensions; even as tension eases Chinese traders stop buying U.S. corn due to difficulty obtaining GMO processing certificate in China

Commentary: Paul Driessen in Town Hall op-ed charges Russian agents conducting campaign to undermine benefits of GM crops, funnel money to Greenpeace, Food and Water Watch to conduct anti-GM, anti-pesticide crusades

News: Indiana's Star Press reports AquaBounty Albany GE salmon facility awaits eggs unable to ship from Prince Edward Island due to pending policy on labeling

News release: Missouri Cattlemens Association announces Missouri legislature passes bill prohibiting describing product as meat unless it is harvested from livestock; association official says they don't oppose plant-based or lab-grown products and legislation does not stifle technology

News release: International Food Information Council Foundation announces results of its 13th Annual Food and Health Survey, 33 percent of participants listed reducing pesticides as a top priority, 40 percent believe non-GMO products are healthier

Audio: Agricultural experts tell Talking Biotech Podcast host that efforts to provide farmers in developing countries with GM plants resistant to disease handcuffed by anti-GM activists, government corruption, legislators' ignorance

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Writing in Daily Nation, Kenyan organic farmer and Indian food activist criticize fields trials of Bt cotton, claim crop has led to farmer suicides and poor fiber quality in India

Study: Crop Protection publishes study by Africa-, U.K.-based researchers finding climate-adapted push-pull technology effective against fall armyworm infestation

Letter to editor: Letter writer on Burkino Faso news site condemns plan to release GM mosquitoes to fight malaria-carrying mosquito, citing unpredictable health risks; notes decline in cotton quality after introduction of Bt cotton

More Africa items

Asia

News: Manila Standard reports Monsanto asks Philippine government to crack down on illegal Bt corn, says the low-quality seed and lack of stewardship measures could undermine the technology and harm farmers' livelihoods

News: Pakistani news site reports country making gains toward self-sufficiency in growing corn, notes GM corn may provide impetus for further gains

Commentary: Bangladesh Post editorial calls on government to invest in research to boost yields of organic crops, noting popularity in Europe, the U.S. and Japan due to health benefits

More Asia items

Europe

News: Euractiv reports mainstream EU farmers support adopting new breeding techniques, but organic farmers oppose it; notes European Court of Justice decision will be key to how gene editing is regulated, but conventional farmers fear politicized decision

Commentary: "What's Making Our Children Sick?" authors write for The Ecologist, claim there is strong link between GMOs and failing health mainly due to "leaky gut" syndrome triggered by agrochemicals

Commentary: Helsinki Times says early results on GM crops helping small-scale farmers is impressive, results in better soil management, reduced pesticide use, increased profitability

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson writes that as GMO lobby tries to persuade African nations to use Bt technology to combat armyworms when it failed in other regions, quotes 7-month-old news release stating that push-pull method of blending crops is effective against the pest, claims infestations 80 percent lower in push-pull fields

Commentary: European Scientist Editor Jean-Paul Oury says with complicated scientist relations with media that focuses on negative, scientists can turn to new media to get their message out on video, Facebook,

Commentary: OXFAM International notes FAO director says now is time to grow agroecology movement

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Panamanian news site reports Regional Council of Agricultural Cooperation discusses risks, benefits of obtaining GM plant products

Interview: Friends of the Earth Argentina quotes CONICET researcher who says "hegemonic" science has understated the risks of GMOs, claims future debates need to include social, ecological scientists and address societal needs

News: Mexican news site reports Mexican Parliament seeks to eliminate GMO labels, NGOs say they believe plan is part of renegotiated NAFTA

Commentary: Greenpeace touts its 25th anniversary in Mexico by noting accomplishments, including getting courts to stop GM soy and GM corn cultivation

Interview: Ecuadoran news site reports interview with Ana Lucia Bravo of Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar, says Ecuadoran constitution stipulates Ecuador is GMO-free country, notes court case intended to prevent GM crop studies and trials, claims there could be genetic contamination, could affect people's health

More Latin America items

Oceania

Review: Frontiers in Plant Science - Researchers from Australia, Africa analyze progress, benefits of Banana21 project, predicts, given benefits of product, banana will be released by 2021

News: PLOS Synbio blogger notes laws governing synbio were not designed for synbio, are inadequate to regulate gene editing but banning gene editing outside a lab is extreme, unnecessary; says regulations should not treat all experiments the same, but focus on riskier types

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a European Parliament debate on new breeding techniques. In the U.S., a House funding bill includes a provision that would mandate labeling GE salmon.

- During the EU Parliament debate today on new breeding techniques, U.K. MEP Stuart Agnew said legislating gene-edited products as GMOs would be unwise because gene-edited products are difficult to detect. In a news release responding to the hearing, Green Party agricultural policy spokesman Martin Hausling said that because gene editing altered the genome, it should be strictly regulated. **See more**
- Agricultural news sites reported the House Appropriations Committee approved a funding bill that would require GE salmon to be labeled as part of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service releases draft Environmental Impact Statement for release of GE citrus treisteza virus to treat citrus greening; public comments on the draft ends June 25

Commentary: Friends of the Earth scientist writing for Food Tank criticizes expected attempt in Senate version of Farm Bill to revise USDA organic standards, allow use of pesticides, GMOs,

News: Canada's Real Agriculture amplifies CropLife Canada video with vice president of government affairs touting improvement in consumer confidence in government regulations around biotechnology, crediting biotech's unblemished safety record; survey participants less confident about regulatory safety of pesticides

Commentary: Joan Conrow writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Mark Lynas during Wisconsin Public Radio interview dispels GMO myths, discusses his new book, and gives peace plan for resolving GMO conflicts by focusing on shared goals of reducing pesticide use, increasing yields

Commentary: Townhall columnist notes organics have shorter shelf-life, higher risk of bacterial contamination, higher price than GMOs while more than 100 Nobel laureates confirm GMO safety, are better for the environment, and can be more nutritious

News: Florida Keys news site reports on GeneWatch UK claims that Oxitec overstated success of Cayman Islands GM mosquitoes field trial, notes scientists say emails were taken out of contex

More North America items

Africa

News: News24 reports on Nampo Harvest Day panel discussion, quotes Grains SA chairperson on the

country's need for agricultural technologies, including biotechnology, to improve smallholder farming

News: Ghanaian news site reports hospital researcher claims his research shows 70 percent of female and 50 percent of male premature deaths due to GMO consumption, which he says causes cancer and other diseases, claims autopsy report shows man in Spain died after eating GMOs

News: Burkina Faso news site reports Citizen Collective for Agroecology hosts demonstration march June 2 to oppose GMOs and GM mosquitoes; group says they believe GM mosquitoes are threat to environment, human health and are "outraged" over Bt cowpea proposal after GM cotton failure

News: Xinhua reports African Agricultural Technology Foundation will use $27 million grant from Gates Foundation in effort to commercialize climate-smart maize to help farmers battle drought and pests

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Writing in Bangladeshi news source, former scientific advisor to Int'l Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology argues Bangladesh should capitalize on local expertise to become internationally competitive in biotech field, use technology to reach national priorities

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports rising demand for eco-friendly fabrics encourages many farmers to switch to organic practices in cotton production, notes use of GM seeds, pesticides often produces bigger yields but decreased input costs for organic farming leads to profitable production

More Asia items

Europe

Event: Testbiotech notes several attempts to release GMOs carrying gene drives into environment targeting mosquitoes, flies, rats that could reach "gene tipping point." promotes June 19-20 conference on gene drives partly organized by Testbiotech, questions to include regulating the processes according to precautionary principle

News: Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine analyzes how genetic engineering, CRISPR may help feed world's growing population, notes importance of ruling by European Court of Justice on NBTs, whether food grown with CRISPR will have mandatory GM labeling

News: Horticulture Week reports British researchers group developed policy proposal to improve British agriculture following Brexit, includes GM crop commercialization, gene editing, sustainability, plant protection products, and allowances for innovation

News: The Telegraph reports British environment secretary's proposals for post-Brexit agriculture focuses on environment, use of innovative data, biotechnology, and breeding techniques; notes consumers becoming more open to biotech use

Commentary: Risk-Monger David Zaruk posts base text of his presentation at British Association of Feed Supplement and Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM) general assembly on May 17, he speaks out against an overly precautionary approach to agriculture

News: Belgian life sciences news source interviews heads of biotech research institute, Dutch company about trends in agri-biotech; one says it seems introduction of GMOs in Europe now lost fight, but holds out hope genome-edited plants could be exempted from GM regulations

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Biology professor writes for Brazilian news site that whenever we eat GM food, we also eat insecticide - either sprayed on or Bt toxin in the plant; points out that current law requires GMOs to

be labeled in Brazil

News: Bolivian news site reports farmer says GM corn is cultivated in Yacuiba area and transported to Santa Cruz and sold to national companies; Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation directors says there is no authorization for GM corn in Bolivia; Food Production Support Company notes they support conventional corn planting, but if farmer plants GM corn next to it, they will cross-breed

News: Argentina's Ecoportal reports on Bolivia's GMO labeling law, Sparkies chewy candies and Chips Ahoy cookies will be the first products labeled, highlights concerns that GMOs may be linked to celiac disease

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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Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing controversy over a Brazilian proposal to remove front-of-package transgenic labels on foods. In Europe, Dutch trade group Plantum filed a petition calling for the country to reduce restrictive policies on plant research.

- Brazilian news outlets reported that civil society groups met with legislators to protest a proposed law that would remove the "T" label on foods with GMO ingredients. In a news release, Senate Vice President Cássio Cunha Lima quoted a Greenpeace campaigner who urged the Senate to protect consumer rights. Celebrity chef Paola Carosella also spoke in favor of maintaining the "T" label. **See more**
- Celebrating International "Fascination of Plants" Day, members of the Netherlands-based trade group Plantum delivered a petition to the House of Representatives agricultural committee urging that restrictive policies on plant potential be removed. Specifically, the group called for "workable" regulations on new plant breeding techniques, as well as support for intellectual property rights and basic research funding. **See more**

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North America

News: Grain news site reports USDA awarded $2 million for stakeholder, public engagement research on new breeding techniques for ag production; one defines consumer preferences for gene editing regulation and consumption

Commentary: Physician and public health expert says scientist developing plant that could halt climate change using unnecessarily slow conventional breeding method rather than CRISPR due to public suspicion of gene editing

News: Arthritis Foundation reports National Academy of Sciences study concluded GMOs safe for health but GMOs being labeled because critics say long-term effects are uncertain and say consumers have right to know

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science notes Peel Back the Label teams with Funny or Die on video that lampoons GMO-free labels designed to confuse consumers, actor points out in video that GMOs are safe

Commentary: Mother Nature Network contributor criticizes USDA's used of "bioengineered" term and label, says consumers are familiar with "GMO" term and label looks sunny, green, and natural; points out labels are not finalized and public has chance to comment

Study: University of Toronto hospital's Research Institute finds development of GE salmon will be beneficial for aquaculture

More North America items

Africa

News: African Press Agency reports on Citizen Collective for Agroecology press conference announcing June 2 march to protest Target Malaria's proposed use of GM mosquitoes; group also criticized GM cowpea, cotton

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: Japanese consumer agency questions soy sauce providers regarding proposed GM labeling requirements, would change requirement from 5 percent threshold to 0 percent threshold for GMO labeling; companies say they oppose the measure, note how it will change their labels

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports growing demand for eco-friendly fabric prompts about 1,000 Indian farmers to switch to cultivating organic cotton due to increased price for the supply

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Dutch association for plant reproduction Plantum presents petition asking politicians in the Netherlands to work together to establish workable regulations for plant breeding techniques such as CRISPR; Plantum director notes policy often hinders full potential of technology and plants

Announcement: EU Parliament posts agenda for committees' hearing on use of new breeding techniques

Commentary: Friends of the Earth food campaigner writes op-ed on Euractiv, says that following European Court of Justice opinion, EU Commission must act quickly and decisively to ensure gene-edited products won't be cultivated in EU and sold unlabeled

Commentary: GM Watch responds to Bayer editorial calling for end to animal feeding trials in Europe's GM crop approval process, group claims such trials have shown unexpected toxicity and allergenic effects

News release: Germany's Federation of the Organic Food Industry promotes appointment of its chief ag officer to IFOAM EU president, includes debate on novel GE techniques a top priority for the organization

News release: French NGO association Citizen Platform for an Agricultural and Food Transition, wants EU legislators to provide better labeling noting use of GM feed, ban glyphosate within 3 years, wants decline in emissions from ag sector

News: Feed Navigator editor questions why non-GMO soy doesn't have more demand, notes consumers unaware of "hidden commodity;" reports Avril Group taking multi-faceted approach to stimulating demand for "responsibly produced" soy by cultivating non-GMO soy in France

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news site reports Brazilian celebrity cooks and Greenpeace officials meet with Parliament members to criticize bill that modifies GM labeling law, say right to know about GM products is critical

News release: Brazilian Senate announces Senate VP critical of bill that eliminates us of transgenic symbol, says proposal is dangerous because it would remove consumers' right to know

News: Brazilian news site reports councilman's motion criticizes law that restricts GM labeling in Brazil, says it harms consumers' right to choose and that GM products are not safe

News: Mexican news site reports that presidential candidate ALMO's proposed SAGARPA secretary says they will use biotechnology in agricultural but will not cultivate GM maize because Mexico has other options to increase maize yields

More Latin America items

Oceania

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Global Biotech Snapshot

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Today's global biotechnology developments included continued stakeholder response to a U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal on labeling GMOs. The European Parliament's agriculture and environment committees previewed a public hearing on new plant breeding techniques. Brazil's agricultural agency requested permission to offer testimony in a lawsuit opposing the country's use of GM crops.

- *Food Navigator* summarized early comments on the USDA proposal on GMO labeling, quoting several responses from consumers who called the rules "useless" or "misleading." The National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition analyzed the proposal, adding that the group was finalizing its response to the guidelines. Center for Food Safety, in an email to supporters, urged consumers to comment on the need for "clear" GMO labeling rules. **See more**
- The European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, in partnership with the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, previewed a public hearing on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The brief report noted that French researcher and biotechnology skeptic Yves Bartheau was among the planned speakers. In a separate report, Corporate Europe Observatory summarized efforts to liberalize regulations on NBTs, calling the effort a global biotech and seed industry lobbying campaign. **See more**
- Brazil's Confederação da Agricultura e Pecuária do Brasil filed to help defend the government against a lawsuit brought by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, which claims that the government's approval of glyphosate-resistant GM crops ignored potential health implications. **See more**
- News outlets in Ireland reported that a blight-resistant GM potato field trial had resulted in significant environmental benefits over conventional potato production. Researchers found that fungicide applications, in particular, were reduced by 80 to 90 percent in the blight-resistant fields. **See more**

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North America

News: Food Navigator reports on first wave of comments on USDA's proposed GMO labeling rules, includes samples of comments from a wide range of stakeholders, quotes plant researcher Kevin Folta on rules' exemptions

Commentary: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition examines USDA's proposed GMO disclosure rules, summarizing which products are covered and exempt, and what labels might look like, NSAC will issue further comments as it continues its analysis

Commentary: Cornucopia Institute amplifies MIT Technology Review on proposed new GMO labels, claims labels look more like biotech propaganda than a consumer awareness label

Commentary: IATP policy analyst speculates terms of GE agriculture in NAFTA 2.0, suggests U.S.'s voluntary approach to regulation likely to be included; warns Trump administration's "war on science," U.S.'s lack of mandatory risk assessment may backfire, result in market rejection

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides highlights Center for Biological Diversity No Refuge report claiming national wildlife refuges contaminated with toxic pesticides, notes neonic links to pollinator declines, efforts against GE crops and pesticide use on refuges

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news source reports OFAB Nigeria coordinator says Bt cowpea would generate N48billion a year in Nigeria, calls for adequate funding of biosafety agency to provide regulatory framework for biotechnology

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science piece by Nigerian journalist compares opposition to adoption of GMOs to history of electronic communications, noting resistance is more emotional than factual; argues Nigeria needs to focus less on concerns raised by "technophobes" and more on biotech resources

News: African Arguments highlights New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition initiative, clashes between pastoralists and farmers over land; farmers raise concerns about lack of land and water, say they feel abandoned by their govt

Campaign: World Bank funded agroecology scholarships announced for Uganda; program documents specifically stipulate "no GMO will be introduced" (anti-GMO organic lobbying groups PELUM, NOGAMU and EOAI also participating in program)

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports India Supreme Court decision rejecting seed patent rights prompts seed maker to refuse to pay bag trait fee to Monsanto; national seed association to petition to deposit trait fees to court at May 28 hearing

News: New Indian Express reports India's GEAC halts GM food import applications until food safety agency frames guidelines

News: The Hindu reports that food safety regulators are reviewing international food labeling schemes, including GMO ingredient disclosure, to help finalize India's guidelines; final rules expected in two to three months

News: Press Trust of India reports Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to finalize packaged food labelling standards in next 2-3 months; products with 5 percent or more GM ingredients to be labeled

News: The Hindu reports Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee calls for more field tests for GM mustard, activists say regulators have not addressed point that GM mustard has not been tested as a herbicide tolerant crop, or for impacts

News: IANS reports Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee allows field trials of GM mustard, chairperson says trials do not mean an approval for commercial release; notes opposition by Coalition for a GM-Free India

More Asia items

Europe

Event: European Parliament Agriculture and Rural Development committee previews May 17 public hearing on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs); speakers include INRA researcher Yves Bertheau, who claims gene edited crop effects "unknown"

Report: Corporate Europe Observatory investigation identifies seed lobby groups PR campaign strategy

advocating for NBT exception from EU GMO regulation, concludes discussion of food production control must be transparent, open to citizen dialogue to combat industry PR

News: Irish Independent reports on Teagasc field trial demonstrating environmental benefits of a blight-resistant GM potato, says three-year investigation showed 80 to 90 percent reduction in fungicide application

News: Irish agricultural news outlets report on Teagasc field trial of GM blight-resistant potato, AgriLand notes cisgenic approach is more acceptable to consumers and farmers than traditional GMOs

Commentary: Julian Little of Bayer CropScience writes for Europe's The Parliament Magazine, calls for end to mandatory GMO feeding studies, argues such animal testing is unnecessary, highlights examples where GMOs have improved food safety

News: Italy's Messaggero Veneto reports on Giorgio Fidenato's long legal battle to plant GM corn, Fidenato notes that in planting GM seeds this season, he is violating Italian law, criticizes Italy for failing to put European treaties into practice

News: France's 20 Minutes reports that GMOs are not responsible for deaths of 21 million kangaroos in Australia, contrary to information being circulated by dubious sources online, finds that reports cite fabricated agencies and documents

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil (CNA) issues request to assist the Union in lawsuit brought by Federal Public Ministry (MPF), seeking to prohibit use of GM herbicide-tolerant seeds, CNA points to many benefits of GM seeds

News: Ecuadorian news source reports country's constitutional court hears anti-GMO coalition arguments against Ecuador adoption, acceptance of transgenic seeds

News release: Observatorio Del Cambio Rural promotes Ecuador Free of Transgenics coalition's testimony and rally at constitutional court hearing on GMOs in Ecuador calling for seed sovereignty, support of Ecuodorian vs corporate interests

News: Cayman News Service amplifies GeneWatch UK report claiming West Bay field trial of GM mosquito did not reduce overall mosquito populations; notes health ministry promised an announcement and details addressing the claims

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 14, 2018
Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:03:46 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 a review board in India had delayed commercialization of GM mustard.

- India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) rejected an application for the commercialization of GM mustard, calling for additional field trials. The decision was criticized by the Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture and the Coalition for a GM-Free India, which claimed that the committee was ignoring the implications of the crop's herbicide-tolerance trait on honeybees and other insects. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines SynBioWatch's efforts to derail gene drive technology and its use to fight crop pests, debunks claims that U.S. gov't and scientists are engaging in a hostile corporate takeover of farming

Commentary: Lindsay Burgess of Brit and Co explains to readers why there is no need to fear GMOs, highlights long history of safe use, points to nutritional and environmental benefits, notes much GMO opposition comes from spread of fake news

Campaign: GMO Free U.S.A. urges supporters to send EPA comments in opposition to experimental release of GE mosquitoes in Harris County, Texas, and Monroe County, Florida, urges them to sign a petition and spread the word on social media

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports Tanzanian MPs urge government to set up special budget for fighting destructive armyworms

News: Ugandan news site reports civil rights NGO coalition urging finance ministry to release emergency funds to help battle pest, disease outbreaks including fall army worm infestation

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's The Tribune reports activist group raise concern of GEAC GM mustard review, write letter asking ministry for more thorough review addressing herbicide-tolerant concerns, among other issues

News: The New Indian Express reports on Environment Ministry's decision against commercial release

of GM mustard, stating that more field trials are necessary to determine impact on honeybees, soil microbial diversity and honey

Campaign: Coalition for a GM-Free India letter accuses GEAC of inadequate reevaluation of GM mustard, misguided decision to execute field trials; calls on agency to execute transparent, serious review of crop

News: Press Trust of India reports Coalition for a GM-Free India letters calls on GEAC to exercise "utmost seriousness" in reexamination of GM mustard, criticizes agency field trial plan

Commentary: T.V. Padma of India's The Wire analyzes ongoing legal dispute over Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, notes if Bt cotton were registered under Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act, farmers would be able to use it for breeding

Commentary: Managing partner at Corporate Law Group, Krishna Sarma, writes for The Hindu, points out errors in Delhi High court ruling to invalidate Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, highlights importance of adding scientific and technical expertise to the judicial process

More Asia items

Europe

News release: GeneWatch UK briefing offers evidence Mosquito Control and Research Unit scientists in Cayman Islands believe no reduction to Aedes aegypti in response to Oxitec GM mosquito

Campaign: France Nature Environnement asks supporters to call on MPs to introduce clear labeling under Food Law in advance of policy discussion May 22-25; includes labels on use of pesticides, GMOs among demands

Commentary: Beyond GM co-founder Lawrence Woodward writes for Hospitality and Catering News, argues plant-based meat alternatives are not necessarily sustainable, as they are frequently derived from GM crops, claims Impossible Burger hasn't proven safety

Report: Article in EMBO Reports identifies five areas in which gene drive organisms and existing GMOs differ, authors argue gene drives require adapted risk assessments, highlighting potential environmental risks

News: EurActiv reports on European Seeds Association's opposition to labeling requirements for products of new breeding techniques, ESA Secretary-General Garlich von Essen noted such labeling wouldn't provide consumers with any new information

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivia's La Razon reports country's consumer defense deputy minister announces chewy candies, Chips Ahoy cookies are first products with GM labeling to hit market, noting labeling policy to take effect in June

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports on farming groups' testimony against proposed GM compensation fund for non-GM growers, CropLife Australia's Matthew Cossey described the plan as a "solution looking for a problem that just simply doesn't exist"

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 14, 2018
Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 4 57:36 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As the International Agency for Research on Cancer is reportedly narrowing down its list of candidates to be its next president, this week's Favorable Outcomes highlights a pair of articles that explore IARC - one that revistis its controversial ruling that glyphosate could cause cancer and another suggesting that the agency can move back toward good science with a new leader in place.

We also shine a spotlight on items dealing with misleading food labels, European policy on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and a potential biotechnology solution to cassava virus in Uganda.

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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: Rainforest Alliance

The Rainforest Alliance promotes an agroecology-based certification service - similar to fair trade and other eco-friendly third-party programs - that prohibits the use of many pesticides (e.g., atrazine, paraquat, triazines) and all GMOs.

It promotes itself as going

Stories Worth Sharing

Andre Heitz: Inside the IARC conspiracy to misrepresent health risks from glyphosate

Ellen Dhain: European dratt guidance wrongly assumes chemicals have endocrine-disrupting properties

Lominda Afedraru: Ugandan farmers eagerly await GMO solution to cassava virus

Amanda Zaluckyj: Europeans' embrace of organic, rejection of GMOs goes against environmental stewardship

Michelle Miller: Debunking latest claims that glyphosate is in your food

Ludger Wess: European organic industry getting in the way of CRISPR innovations, harming the environment

Joe McCarthy: Mike Adams creates alternate reality with Natural News "misinformation empire"

Consumer & Society: Change in leadership otters IARC chance to return to science instead of scaremongering

Alliance for Food and Farming: Media coverage becoming more critical of Environmental Working Group "Dirty Dozen" pesticide claims

AGDAILY: "Funny or Die" explores absurdity of food labeling

"beyond organic" as relates to conservation and worker welfare. In 1998, it launched the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), which follows RA certification requirements restricting use of pesticides and prohibiting use of GMOs, while extending the NGO's work in Africa and other regions.

It includes a focus on sustainable coffee, bananas, tea and other products that are marketed with its seal by major food retailers such as McDonald's, Unilever, American Airlines and Whole Foods Market. This week, SAN published a report claiming "sustainable" certification schemes for poor farmers in developing markets are the best pathway to sustainable agriculture for both farmer economics and the environment.

Click HERE to learn more about Rainforest Alliance.

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What's Trending?

Activists claim U.S. farm bill up for consideration this week would ease pesticide regulations and harm farmworkers, pollinators

Anti-GMO groups unhappy with U.S. proposal to use "bioengineered" term on labels

Italian study warns of 259 pesticides in surface water

Sugar industry predicts significant losses from European neonic ban

Calendar highlights

May 14-15	May 15	May 15-18
Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe	European Parliament committee on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU general assembly
May 15	May 16-17	May 16-18
"Whitewash" presentation at Houston Museum of Fine Arfs by U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam	Meeting of European Parliament Commiffee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Conference on Governance of Emerging Technologies & Science: Law, Policy and Ethics
May 17	May 17	May 19
European Court of Justice releases judgments on challenges to 2013 restrictions on neonics and fipronil	Center for Environmental Health "Evening of Audacious Action"	March Against Monsanto - some events also target Syngenta, Dow, BASF

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 14, 2018
Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 4 57:25 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 11-13, 2018
Date: Sunday, May 13, 2018 10:06 09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments this weekend included a provision in the U.S. House appropriations bill that would direct the USDA to regulate lab-grown meat. Two series of articles focused on regulating gene editing in the European Union and on how large agribusinesses view their part in the GMO discussion. Reporting and commentary continued on the USDA's proposed federal GMO labeling rule.

- reported an agricultural appropriations bill contains a provision directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to regulate products made from livestock cells if it is intended for human consumption. Jessica Almy of the Good Food Institute, which represents plant-based and lab-grown meat companies, said American clean meat companies were not consulted and believe congressional action is not needed. In an editorial response to a U.S. Cattlemen's Association petition, *The Verge* science reporter Angela Chen said lab-grown meat should be called "meat." **See more**

- Two article series focused on agricultural biotech. A *Euractiv* series included an interview with Italian MEP Paolo De Castro, who said new gene-editing techniques are crucial to provide global food security and should not be regulated as GMOs. **See more** The last of a five-part series on GMOs by *Devex* examined how large biotech corporations perceive their roles in the biotech debate. **See more**

- *The New York Times* reported GMOs will be labeled because the technology remains a "source of anxiety" for Americans "despite scientific studies that say they pose no health threat." NGOs Beyond Pesticides and the Organic Consumers Association criticized the proposal's use of the "bioengineered" term and use of the QR codes, saying the rule is intended to keep consumers in the dark regarding GMOs. A Missouri law firm's blog asserted that the rule fails to address issues adequately, noting the "bioengineering" definition ignores other technologies. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: We Love GMOs blogger Stephan Neidenbach says pesticide producers fund anti-GMO groups as Bt brinjal, other crops reduce pesticide use; notes DuPont was caught funding anti-GMO group as Monsanto GMOs hurt sales; notes GM mosquitoes also make pesticide producers nervous

Commentary: Agroecology journal published Berkeley professor review of Carey Gillamâ€™s Whitewash: claims book shows need for increased regulatory oversight of agrochemical companies, pesticides and GMOs

Letter to the editor: David Schubert of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies responds to Michael Gerson commentary, says he is making a mistake believing GMOs are not health hazards, says Gersonâ€™s statements are false because there are no GMO studies on human safety, but there is evidence of toxicity of GMOs and chemicals they require

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA Amanda Zaluckyj on returning from U.K. tour says Europeans believe they make environmentally friendly choices, but embrace organics and reject GMOs, which is

counterproductive to reducing environmental footprint

News release: USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture announces awarding of research grants to identify consumer attitudes toward GM food, determine ways to gain public acceptance

News release: Organic Trade Association releases statement on USDA termination of Organic Check-off, suggests USDA is holding back progress for organics, says it's unfathomable organic stakeholders won't be given chance to vote on the issue

More North America items

Africa

Video: Cornell Alliance for Science video describes how GM potato variety immune to potato blight will enable small farmers to save cost of expensive fungicides, increase yields; notes variety could be released in 2020 if legislators approve biosafety bill

News: Ugandan newspaper reports National Agricultural Research Organisation official believes biotechnology only solution to widespread agricultural problems that are destroying major food, cash crops such as banana, sweet potato, cassava

News: Xinhua reports EU will begin subjecting Ugandan ag products to rigorous checks for fall armyworm in June, National Crops Resources Research Institute Director Godfrey Asea noted gov't is confident in field trials of GM drought-tolerant and insect-resistant crops

News: Xinhua reports African Union Commission tell scientists to incorporate traditional knowledge into biotech research to leverage continent's genetic resources for competitive, economic growth

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Bangladesh Post reports country is self-sufficient in food, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute officials credit hybrid and GM crop use; now country can export rice

News: India's Business Standard reports farmers income panel acknowledges GM is a powerful tool to improve farming, but research should be done more transparently and in socially inclusive manner to gain wider public acceptance, address opponents' concerns; points out GM cotton use in India provided pro and con lessons on GMO use

Commentary: Philippine newspaper staff writer explains GMO foods unlikely to threaten human health, no adverse effects reported after consumption

Commentary: Reader of Indian newspaper warns of growing food insecurity through growing population, misuse of pestides, creeping urbanization; notes GM food might offer solution except for many ethical, moral, religious issues

News: Chinese news site reports on "Food Evolution" documentary screening in China, says film does not take sides but gives time for pro- and anti-GMO sides to speak, points out how people have changed food through agriculture for many years

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Daily Mail reports Penn State scientists using CRISPR to make cacao trees disease-resistant; notes disease destroys 20 to 30 percent of cocoa pods each year

News: Euractiv reports in a Corteva-sponsored series on new breeding techniques that Italian MEP Paolo De Castro says the NBTs hold great promise in producing disease-, drought-resistant crops,

providing food security; says they replicate natural breeding and cannot be regulated as GMOs

News: New Food magazine reports U.K.'s Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs received more than 44,000 comments on future farming proposals during agency's farming consultation; topics included biodiversity, soil health, animal welfare

Commentary: French anti-GM NGO Inf'OGM notes Codex meeting shows tension between GMO supporters and opponents in meeting on defining biofortification, as biotech opponents fear the term being used as Trojan horse for GMOs, notes they do not want individual countries to decide because pro-GMO countries would

News: Belarussian news agency reports GMO labels to become mandatory in the Eurasian Economic Union in 18 months

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Greenpeace notes Mexican agency trying to eliminate non-GMO mention on organic labeling as Pena Nieto's presidency comes to close, says it's confusing and contrary to public desire to know GMO content in food

News: Brazilian science and culture news site reports labeling bill would reduce number of GMO products required to be labeled, would eliminate transgenic symbol requirement

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: AgScience blogger notes New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority director says New Zealand is more likely to consider using genetic modification for pest eradication than for crops

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports southern Australia farmers coping with dry spell with rainfall 63 percent below normal; farmers who plant GM canola and GM barley said itâ€™s why they farm the way they do

News: Australian news site reports in last of 5-part series on GMOs, as biotech corporations tell how they fit into GMO debate; acknowledging profit is necessary part of their business, their goal is to help farmers, including smallholders; Bayer spokesman notes area with most potential for growth are those with lowest production, such as Africa, Asia, Latin America

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 10, 2018
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2018 9:05:21 PM

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 news conference by a Burkina Faso-based NGO opposing the release of GM mosquitoes to battle malaria. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would prepare an environmental impact statement on the potential permit approval for a genetically engineered virus to fight citrus greening. Nigeria's National Biosafety Development Agency Director Rufus Ebegba continued a campaign against anti-GMO activists.

- A Burkina Faso activist group, Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroecologie, hosted a news conference to announce its opposition to a planned GM mosquito release to help battle malaria. The groups listed reasons for opposing the project, including that similar efforts by Oxitec had unconvincing results, and the cost of 37 million CFA francs would be better spent in efforts to reduce the mosquito population. French journalist Catherine Morand also questioned whether Burkina Faso was being used as an experimental guinea pig in the name of eradicating malaria. An activist group announced a June 2 march in Ouagadougou to oppose the project. **See more**
- The USDA will prepare an EIS for a possible permit approval for Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery to release a genetically engineered citrus tristeza virus that would help against citrus greening. The agency has announced a public comment period will run through June 25. **See more**
- NBMA Director Rufus Ebegba told a Nigerian journalist writing for the Cornell Alliance for Science that his agency would not be bullied or blackmailed by unscientific comments from activist groups. Ebegba addressed a recent article in Nigeria's Leadership newspaper that he said was "riddled with outrageous errors" about GMOs. Other biotech supporters in the article said Nigerian farmers are eagerly awaiting approval of Bt cowpea that would save them money by requiring three to four fewer pesticide applications. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Non-GMO Project marketing coordinator says GMOs too new to develop scientific consensus, have not been sufficiently studied, and we might never reach consensus, so the project advises using the precautionary principle

Commentary: Conventional and organic farmer Jeremy Brown writes opinion piece for Food Navigator, urges readers not to be frightened by Environmental Working Group's Dirty Dozen list, notes all produce in the U.S. is safe, and that organic also uses pesticides

Interview: Food Tank talks to Kate Mendenhall, director of Organic Farmers Association, who says organic farmers face issues with contamination from pesticide drift and GE pollen drift, claims organic fastest-growing agricultural sector, calls on Congress to increase support for organic farming in next Farm Bill

News release: University of Illinois announces researchers find cassava breeding - designed to resist disease and pests - doesn't increase yields or improve photosynthesis, sets goal to do both in program financed by Gates Foundation

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization says USDA considering using SmartLabels as part of federal GM labeling requirement, says the QR codes offer more information than could ever fit on a label

Commentary: Modern Farmer's Dan Nosowitz calls USDA's GM labeling rule "weird," notes it substitutes "bioengineered" for "genetically modified," has smiley-faced sun logo; Environmental Working Group's Scott Faber says it sows confusion, Sierra Club calls it "Orwellian"

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Nigeria's top GMO regulator says anti-GMO activists won't stop GM crops because their sentiments are not backed up by facts; official says Bt cowpea will save farmers money by reducing pesticide spraying

News: Nigeria-based environmental news site reports a Burkina Faso NGO urges opposition to releasing GM mosquitoes to battle malaria, says cost is too great for uncertain results, drop in mosquito population could bring other species to forefront that could spread disease, and good public health policy would be more effective

Commentary: Nigeria's National Biotechnology Development Agency Assistant Director Rose Gidado says biotech crops aid farmers, increase food security, reduce amount of land needed for farming, and mitigate climate change effects

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Economic Times reports government opts not to change cotton seed price as it awaits Supreme Court decision on Monsanto's appeal of a court ruling that it cannot patent its Bollgard II cotton seed

News: Indian news site reports Indian Supreme Court declines to put hold on Delhi High Court order on Monsanto's Bt cotton patent, sets hearing for July 18

Event: Navdanya announces public conference in Italy to promote Manifest on Food and Health, which promotes agroecology, prepared by activists such as Vandana Shiva, Richard Falk

News: Pakistan's Daily Times reports Cornell University professor of food process engineering gives keynote address at third international conference on biosciences, focusing on latest scientific developments in plant sciences, microbiology, biotechnology, highlighting challenges to world's food security and sustainability

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: German molecular biologist, author says EU organic industry's obsession with what is "natural" jeopardizes organic crops, harms the environment, threatens innovative uses such as CRISPR, and stymies African nations via trade barriers

News: U.K's Fruitnet amplifies results of survey conducted on behalf of Agricultural Biotechnology Council that showed only 22 percent of respondents aged 18 to 24 objected to use of gene editing, GM cropping, found "Generation Z" age group most in favor of modern farming techniques

Commentary: GMWatch notes USC communications professor claims UK survey that says Millennials "have no qualms about GM crops" was biased and leading

Commentary: Netherlands news site editorial points out debate often focuses on safety of innovation,

but acceptance is based on its application so more focus should go on the solutions provided by technologies such as gene editing

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian news site reporter notes justification for removing the "T" symbol from transgenic products includes position that it leads people to incorrect assumption the product is unhealthy and is unprecedented in alerting people to a safe product, but says it is impossible to say products are 100 percent healthy, notes Saudi Arabia also has warning label for GMOs

Commentary: Mexico's Union of Scientists Committed to Society reviews Steven Druker's book in which he claims FDA violated food safety laws to prevent GM food from going through long, vigorous trials and helped build myths about GMO safety

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on CSIRO's research in genetics to help address problem of herbicide-resistant ryegrass, CSIRO research geneticist Greg Rebetzke noted wheat is particularly vulnerable due to commonplace use of glyphosate

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 9:01:40 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 ongoing U.S. response to a proposed GMO labeling standard. In Mexico, proposed changes to organic labeling prompted activist criticism.

- U.S. media outlets, activists and researchers continued to weigh in on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed GMO labeling guidance. Just Label It! criticized the proposal and urged supporters to comment on the need for a "clear" disclosure standard. Food policy researcher Marion Nestle mocked the proposed USDA graphics, while agriculture economist Jayson Lusk highlighted outstanding questions about what ingredients and concentrations trigger the label. An editorial in *National Fisherman* said the proposal ignores salmon producers' concerns that GE salmon could drive consumers away from all salmon consumption. **See more**
- Greenpeace Mexico, MA OGM Colectivo sin Transgénicos and several other environmental groups issued a statement criticizing Mexico's proposal to remove language about GMOs from its organic labeling scheme. Current organic labels specifically note that foods were produced without genetic engineering, but a proposed change would more broadly state that foods were produced according to the country's organic standards. The groups said the change would undermine consumer choice. **See more**
- *Euractiv* launched a special report on the future of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) in Europe. In the first article of the series, reporter Sarantis Michalopoulos quoted Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis on the expectations around a pending EU Court of Justice ruling on the technology. The article noted that farmer group Copa-Cogeca has come out strongly in favor of NBTs, noting the potential for climate-adaptive agriculture, while Greenpeace EU warned that the decision would not address all aspects of the technology. **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: Joan Conrow writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, says USDA's proposed labeling rule softens "GMO stigma," says rule angers activists who spent years demonizing the term

Commentary: Purdue University's Jayson Lusk, professor of agricultural economics, notes USDA's proposed GM labeling rule causing controversy due to QR code inclusion, possible exemptions for highly-processed ingredients, and for setting threshold for what is considered GM food

Commentary: Technology news site writer notes USDA asks for public input on GMO labeling plan, notes GM food must be labeled despite the food being consumed for decades with no safety issues and says effort is "much ado about nothing"

Commentary: In email, Just Label It founder Gary Hirshberg criticizes USDA's proposed GM labeling rule, claims it will omit 70 percent of all GM products; urges readers to submit comments urging the agency to make big changes

Commentary: Nutritionist Marion Nestle sarcastic over USDA's proposals for GMO food labels that includes a smiling sun logo, urges readers to comment on the rule and logo

Commenatary: National Fisherman editor says GE salmon will be labeled as "bioengineered," says GMO labeling rule panders to producers, says it's further proof the government does not work for the public, but for corporations; notes salmon producers pushed for GMO label to avoid consumer confusion

Commentary: Kyle Diamantas of law firm Baker Donelson analyzes USDA's proposed GMO disclosure rule, notes it will impact nearly all food products sold in the U.S. if finalized, rules for products containing only trace amounts have not been determined

News: South Florida public radio and TV news site reports public has 30 additional days to submit comment on Florida Keys GM mosquito trial

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ugandan journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines farmers' struggles to combat cassava viruses, and their hopes that GM varieties will become accessible

Commentary: Nigerian farmer, weekly columnist writing for local news site laments government deal to import U.S. food, suggests prevalence of GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics, hormones in U.S. industrial ag causing health issues, obesity, stresses need to eat local, organically-grown products

More Africa items

Asia

Interview: AgriNews interviews International Soy Growers Alliance members Doug Winter, Monte Peterson and Jim Sutter on their recent visit to China, they note one of the biggest hurdles to Chinese biotech acceptance is lack of education on the subject

News: AgriNews reports on International Soy Growers Alliance members' recent visit to China to address biotech issues, Jim Sutter highlighted goal of sharing common interests among competitors, such as frustration about China's delayed biotech approvals

News: Xinhua reports on Iowa soybean farmers Martha and Rick Kimberly's role in accepting visitors from China's Guangdong Province, serving as ambassadors for modern farming methods, Rick Kimberly believes the U.S. and China will resolve trade tensions

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Mathrubhumi, describes Supreme Court's refusal to stay lower court's ruling blocking Monsanto's patent on Bt cotton as a "major victory," claims Monsanto's arguments are scientifically invalid

Commentary: Indian intellectual property firm notes that in Monsanto IP case, Indian court found genes are not microorganisms, but did not state why it excluded Bt gene sequences from scope of patentability; says decision against Monsanto should be overruled by Supreme Court

News release: South Korean GMO labeling group criticizes South Korean president's reasons for not changing GMO labeling system, says it will not cause price increases as claimed because it is similar to ones used in Europe, Japan, Australia

News: Pakistani news site reports government plans to approve GM corn varieties without going through field trials in "clandestine move," seed association leaders criticize move jeopardizing food safety, say GM corn will cross-pollinate with other varieties and deprive the country of white corn

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on expected EU Court of Justice decision on future of new breeding techniques, highlights debate over whether or not they should be regulated as GMOs

News: EurActiv reports on EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis' assessment that regulation of products of new breeding techniques will depend on how EU Court of Justice interprets existing law, noting the Commission cannot interpret the law

Commentary: In a statement, University of Zurich researcher says EKAH statement on precaution did not include opposing viewpoints; says blocking new technology is also an ethical question given need for sustainable ag

News: The Week (U.K.) reports on risk that fall armyworm could travel from Africa to Britain, highlights challenges posed by chemical resistance, European farmers are more vulnerable due to widespread opposition to GM crops

More Europe items

Latin America

News: La Jornada reports Mexican agency Senasica plans to eliminate wording on organic food labels that indicate the product is free from GMO; Mexican Center for Environmental Law says this will be confusing for customers

News: Mexican news site reports environmental groups denounce agency's attempt to eliminate from organic labels any mention that the product is free from GMOs

News: Argentine agricultural news site reports INTA introduces 3 new varieties of GM cotton that adapt to diverse conditions, resist disease, increase fiber length, resistance

News: Argentine news site reports on filmmaker Fernando Solanas' documentary on fumigated towns and his crusade to rid country of pesticides, other agrochemicals that he says "are polluting our lives" while they are prohibited in other countries; relates pesticide use to GM soybean cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority announces new gene editing technique does not create GMOs and is permitted activity; technique is under trial in lab, may improve disease resistance in plants, create less toxic pesticides

Commentary: New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science blogger notes Australia's EPA rules RNA-based cell treatments do not produce GMOs, are permitted under Australian law

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 significant local media coverage of India's proposed GMO labeling guidance. In Europe, a Swiss biotechnics group issued a report calling for "precautionary thinking" on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- Indian news outlets reported on the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) draft guidance for labeling products made with genetically engineered ingredients. The rules would require a labeling on any food products in which more than 5 percent of the total ingredients come from genetically modified products. Despite previously calling for GMO labeling, the Coalition for a GM-Free India criticized the proposal, arguing that GMO imports are banned in the country and efforts should focus on enforcement of the moratorium. A final standard is expected by late July. **See more**
- The Swiss Eidgenössische Ethikkommission für die Biotechnologie im Ausserhumanbereich (EKAH), a federal ethics committee on biotechnology, issued a report today emphasizing the need for a "precautionary" approach to regulating new biotechnologies. The group argued that regulators are ethically obligated to reduce uncertainty and thus should apply traditional genetic engineering regulations to the new approaches. **See more**
- U.S. advocacy groups continued to respond to a USDA proposal on labeling products of genetic engineering. Separate statements by Moms Across America, Environmental Working Group and Sierra Club criticized the use of the term "bioengineered" and claimed that the proposed logos were too similar to organic labels. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Nick Meyer of March Against Monsanto criticizes USDA's proposed GMO labels for leaving consumers in the dark, objects to use of the term "Bioengineered," amplifies Center for Food Safety's call on consumers to take action

Commentary: Sierra Club's Katie O'Reilly examines opposition to USDA's proposed GMO disclosure rules, notes most consumers are not familiar with the term "bioengineered," highlights criticism about the proposed symbols and lack of standardization

Commentary: Environmental Working Group's Scott Faber lists six ways in which USDA's proposed GMO disclosure rule leaves consumers in the dark, claims that three-quarters of products with GE ingredients would be excluded

Commentary: Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America criticizes USDA's proposed GMO labeling symbols, highlights potential confusion surrounding the term "Bioengineered," notes "BIO" is used as the organic symbol in Europe

News: The Hagstrom Report amplifies Organic Trade Association email statement on USDA's GMO labeling guidance, says group is still reviewing but questions why agency didn't rule on highly-processed ingredients, animal products

Commentary: Devang Mehta of ETH Zurich writes for Massive Science, answers frequently asked questions about GMOs, explains why he is convinced about safety of GMOs currently on the market, highlights relative low toxicity of glyphosate

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on National Biosafety Development Agency (NBMA) director-general Rufus Ebegba's statement that anti-GMO sentiments will not stop biotech applications in the country, emphasized difference between hybrids and GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports on food regulator FSSAI's proposed GMO labeling requirement for all food products containing at least five percent GM ingredients, final regulation will likely be set within the next two months

News: India's Financial Express reports on Supreme Court's refusal to grant Monsanto's request for stay of court order blocking its Bt cotton patents, Monsanto argued its proprietary technology converted India into one of the largest cotton producers in the world

Commentary: Editorial for India's The Pioneer welcomes proposed GMO labeling rule, noting consumers should have an informed choice, claims GM foods have a long-term negative impact by increasing dependence on pesticides and harming human health

News: India's The Telegraph reports on Coalition for a GM-Free India's objections to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) proposed GMO labeling rules, arguing it is inconsistent with FSSAI's statement to Supreme Court that GM foods are not allowed

News: Times of India reports on proposed GMO labeling rules, Sridhar Radhakrishnan of Coalition for a GM-Free India argued the move will allow entry of GMOs, Chandra Bhushan of Centre for Science and Environment noted labs are needed to check GM content

Campaign: Sridhar Radhakrishnan of Coalition for a GM-Free India submits comments to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), calls for deletion of proposed GMO labeling rule, argues it is inconsistent with FSSAI's statement that GM foods are not allowed in the country

News: India's Business Standard reports on Supreme Court's refusal to stay order blocking Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, it will hear the case on July 18, Monsanto argued its technology is registered in 25 countries, but the Bench noted that India is different

News release: Korea's Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces it will hold a press conference on May 9 to denounce Cheong Wa Dae's response to citizen's petition on GMO labeling, and decision not to introduce a complete marking system

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Swiss Federal Ethics Committee for Non-Human Biotechnology (EKAH) announces publication of report on ethical requirements for regulating new biotechnologies, finds that the precautionary principle is ethically justified

News: Swiss news outlet reports on Federal Ethics Committee for Non-Human Biotechnology's (EKAH) report which found that the ability to selectively intervene in the genome provides ethical justification for implementation and strengthening of the precautionary principle

News: Italy's Parma Quotidiano reports on 19th edition of Cibus International Food Show, Luigi Scordamaglia of Federalimentare and Roberto Moncalvo of Coldiretti expressed interest in gene editing and its potential to improve food quality, quantity and sustainability

Event: University of Bologna's Institute of Advanced Studies (ISA) to host discussion on how "misinformation and pseudoscience feed unfounded fears on GM plants" (May 22, 2018)

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Greenpeace and other NGOs' campaigns against bills to amend pesticide and GMO labeling regulations, they argue the pesticide bill will threaten public health, and that changes to GMO labels will deny consumers information

News: U.K. subscription site Agrow reports Brazilian Senate's environment committee approves support of senator to parliamentary bill to remove warning label on foods containing GMOs

Event: Universidad Autonoma de Occidente Cali-Colombia promotes conference to be held May 10 on "Transgenic foods: solution or problem?", featuring biologist Juan Manuel Perez Asseff of Universidad del Valle

News: Mexico's Expansion profiles Monsanto Corporate Affairs director Laura Tamayo as part of its 100 Powerful Women series, highlights her role in developing communication strategies to advocate for GMOs and help improve Monsanto's reputation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on new Grain Producers SA CEO Caroline Rhodes' efforts to create new strategic plan, South Australia's GM moratorium will be a key focus, which the new gov't indicated it would 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 news that India's Supreme Court would not stay a decision revoking Monsanto's patents on Bt cotton.

- India's Supreme Court refused to grant Monsanto's application for a stay to delay a Delhi High Court ruling invalidating its Bt cotton patents. The company has appealed the decision, seeking a stay until its July 18 hearing. Local media outlets continued to review the research and investment implications of the Delhi High Court decision, while activist news outlet *EcoWatch* called the decision a victory for India's farmers. **See more**
- U.K. news outlets reported on a survey conducted by the Agricultural Biotechnology Council, which found that most young people were not opposed to GMOs. The survey found that about 20 percent of young people were opposed to the technology, with most of the 18- to 30-year-olds supporting farmers' use of modern agricultural techniques. **See more**
- The Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa issued a statement criticizing "GMO promoters" broadly and science communicator Mark Lynas in particular, arguing that efforts to encourage biotechnology ignored African culture and disregarded local activists' concerns. The group criticized recent news articles that claimed activist opposition to the draft Biosafety Act in Uganda was delaying the country's food sufficiency goals. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Nature Plants editorial praises recent statements of officials in both the U.S. and the EU arguing that products of gene editing should not be regulated as GMOs, notes it indicates movement towards a more consistent, rational approach

News: MIT Technology Review reports on USDA's proposed labels for foods containing bioengineered ingredients, highlights proposed smiley-face labels and gene-editing exemption

News: Bloomberg reports on announcement by Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant and CTO Robb Fraley of their plans to depart following Bayer takeover, both believe the merger will speed agricultural innovation

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association notes FDA's approval of first U.S. facility for producing GE salmon, warns AquAdvantage salmon contains elevated levels of insulin-like growth factor-1 that can promote abnormal growth in adults, including spread of cancer cells

News: Wall Street Journal reports on Syngenta's push for Chinese developments in gene editing, with goal of global marketing, former American Farm Bureau Federation head Bob Stallman notes the move indicates diminished U.S. investment in ag research

More North America items

Africa

News release: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa issues statement claiming that GMO lobby is showing signs of desperation, claims GMOs have failed to boost African food security, criticizes Mark Lynas' "Seeds of Science" book as misleading

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes new six-part video series from recent National Seed Dialogue and Celebration, with focus on Politics of Seed in South Africa discussion session, supports agroecology for small farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on Indian Supreme Court's refusal to grant stay on Delhi High Court ruling invalidating Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, Monsanto issued a statement that it remains "confident on the merits" of its case

News: India's Mint reports on Supreme Court's refusal to grant Monsanto's request for stay of Delhi High Court ruling invalidating its Bt cotton patents, Monsanto's appeal will be heard on July 18

Commentary: Ram kaundinya, Former CEO of Advanta Seeds, writes for India's Financial Express, criticizes Delhi High Court ruling to invalidate Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, labels it a "death knell" for ag innovation, calls for gov't intervention

News: The Hindu reports on Department of Biotechnology's Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee's recommendation for eradication of illegal herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton, pointing to risks for health, biodiversity and development of resistance

News: Wall Street Journal reports on Syngenta's push for Chinese developments in gene editing, with goal of global marketing, former American Farm Bureau Federation head Bob Stallman notes the move indicates diminished U.S. investment in ag research

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Dennis Eriksson of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences writes opinion article in Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology, argues that current implementation of Europe's biotech regulatory framework has deviated from original intentions

News: The Telegraph (U.K.) reports on survey of 1,600 18 to 30-year-olds by Agricultural Biotechnology Council which found that two thirds of young people support use of modern farming techniques such as GM and gene-edited crops and drones

News: The Press and Journal (U.K.) reports on recent survey by Agricultural Biotechnology Council, which found that only 20 percent of young people oppose use of biotech in agriculture, over half of respondents believe gene editing and GM can improve sustainability

Commentary: Anti-GMO French NGO inf'OGM promotes its March/April newsletter that includes articles about proposed trade secrets law, unfulfilled environmental promises of GMOs, how pesticide industry influences regulations, marketing authorizations, whether synthetic biology can be regulated

More Europe items

Latin America

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

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. examines how emerging industry of lab-grown meat and plant-based substitutes upsetting global livestock sector; Australian university professor predicts cultured "meat" could be commercially available in 10 years; debate continues over terminology

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, May 7, 2018 5:58:23 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A central theme of the items highlighted in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter is the importance of following good science - and the ramifications of doing the opposite.

The Washington Post opinion writer Michael Gerson explains that science supports the safety of genetically modified crops and that human lives are affected when that is ignored. David Zaruk, from his "The Risk-Monger" blog, takes a closer look at European authorities' conscious decision to ignore even their own science team's recommendations in proposing a ban on neonics. And Michael Dourson, in the *Washington Examiner*, describes how a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency policy proposal would emphasize replicable, transparent research in the risk assessment process.

Other items take a critical look at activists David Suzuki and Carey Gillam as well as misleading anti-GMO claims and pro-organic marketing from Stonyfield Farm.

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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: ETC Group

Canada-based ETC Group is planning a monthlong campaign to promote the "peasant food web" as a sustainable alternative to industrial food production.

Stories Worth Sharing

Michael Gerson: Anti-GMO movement is anti-science and has a human cost

David Zaruk: Neonic ban a "failure of European leadership," which decided to shun science

Alex Berezow: Guardian provided disservice by publishing out-of-context glyphosate claims from activist with conflict of interest

Michael Dourson: EPA research policy sound because public interest is "best served when science is replicable and consistent"

Margaret Wente: David Suzuki, "menace to scientific inquiry," undeserving of University of Alberta honor

Josh Bloom: European study shows how misinformation spreads myths that GMOs and other factors cause cancer

Sarah Schultz: No reason for moms to pay more for organic food, despite Stonyfield's "absurd" anti-GMO marketing claims

Hank Campbell: With no "beepocalypse" happening, push to plant flowers makes humans feel good without doing much for bees

Last week, the NGO put out its first in a series of four animated videos, claiming that peasant agriculture produces 70 percent of the world's food while using only 25 percent of the resources. The videos feature the theme "Who Will Feed Us?" and build on a report it released in October.

ETC Group - originally the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration - is also a leading opponent of gene editing.

Click HERE to learn more about ETC Group.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Alison Bernstein: Understanding that safety is always relative and zero risk is an "impossible dream"

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences food security report notes importance of biotechnology

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

USDA releases proposed labeling rule using bioengineered instead of GMO, will take comments through July 3

Pruitt research transparency proposal drives activist opposition, gains industry support

Monsanto challenges Indian court's ruling that it cannot patent Bt cotton seeds

European farm groups express concern about negative impact of neonic ban

Calendar highlights

May 9-10	May 13-17	May 14-15
International Food Policy Research Institute dialogue: "Towards Agricultural Innovation in Ghana: An Evidence-Based Approach"	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry conference in Rome	6th Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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In global biotechnology developments over the weekend, anti-biotech NGOs and biotech advocates commented on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's newly released labeling rule. Monsanto appealed an Indian court ruling that disallowed its patent on Bt cotton. Mexican media reported on a National Autonomous University of Mexico study that showed 90 percent of the country's tortillas have GM corn in them.

- Media, activists, and biotech supporters commented on the USDA's proposed rule governing GMO labeling. *The Washington Post* reported the labels might not be as obvious or as comprehensive as consumers expect. The Alliance for Biotech Facts emphasized that foods produced with GMOs that have no DNA material, such as sugar from GM sugar beets, should not be labeled. The Organic Consumers Association's Katherine Paul called it an "insulting" and "loophole-ridden" rule intended to keep consumers in the dark. Attorney Baylen Linnekin wrote for the Reason Foundation's website that the rule included some vague language that could trigger mandatory labeling or litigation. **See more**

- International media reported that Monsanto is appealing a Delhi High Court court ruling to India's Supreme Court. Earlier in the week, the court ruled Monsanto could not patent its Bt cotton seeds. *Press Trust of India* reported seed industry groups said the decision would irreparably damage agricultural research and development in India. Biotech experts said the court's decision could void other GMO patents. **See more**

- Mexican media revived a study released in late 2017 that found about 90 percent of the tortillas in Mexico contain GM corn. The study, by the National Autonomous University of Mexico's Elena Álvarez-Buylla, also said about one-third of the tortillas contained glyphosate. Buylla said that no evidence shows GMOs to be safe for health and added that consumers should abide by the precautionary principle. **See more**

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North America

News: Wall Street Journal reports with supportive government in China, Syngenta to piggyback on Chinese university research to develop new technologies for plant breeding, making U.S. farmers, others worry that cutting-edge technology is shifting to the East

Commentary: Michael Gerson writes opinion piece for Washington Post in support of GMOs, amplifies Mark Lynas' new book, "Seeds of Science," describes negative impact of anti-GMO movement on agriculture in developing nations

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health president Hank Campbell notes Dr. Oz Show canceled, but he'll miss five of Oz's misinformation-spreading, conspiracy-theory-ridden guests such as Joe Mercola, Mike Adams, and yogic-flying Jeffrey Smith

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines the term monoculture" and whether it is really bad for biodiversity, highlights environmental benefits of monoculture with crop rotation in both organic and conventional systems

Commentary: Food and ag analyst for The Breakthrough Institute, Dan Blaustein-Rejto, argues that embracing modern technologies and industry is the key to environmentally-friendly food production, promotes "Ecomodern Eating"

Commentary: Vox health writer recommends schools teach critical thinking skills about health so public can spot charlatans like Dr. Oz, who extols discredited claims about GMOs

Commentary: Writing for Forbes, cancer epidemiologist Geoffrey Kabat examines how to sort out "which side to believe in an era of alternative facts," suggests activist groups often cite discredited research outside the bounds of scientific discourse on topics such as glyphosate, GMO crops, vaccines, autism

Commentary: Center for Food Safety objects to USDA's GM labeling rule's use of phrase "bioengineering," says it is confusing, maintains QR codes should not be allowed and products made from GM crops must be labeled

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ugandan science journalist notes GM maize is proven to be safe and resistant to pests, but anti-GM politics delays its use by Ugandan farmers; notes U.S. and China are on top of the world because those countriesventure into new areas while Uganda stagnates with "unnecessary fears"

Commentary: Organic crop protection producer NagriTech blog posted in Medium amplifies Stephanie Seneff research claiming link between glyphosate, autism, notes prevalence of glyphosate in typical diet, cites study indicating higher risk of children with autism from pregnant women living near farms using pesticides

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports seed industry groups say Dehli Court decision could do irreparable damage to agricultural research and development in India

News: Philippine News Agency reports Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rice Research Institute to set up GM golden rice demonstration farm despite farmers' fears of health risks, threat to biodiversity

More Asia items

Europe

News: NGO Agroecology Europe calls for nominations for world's best agroecology policies to enable worldwide growth of agroecology

Announcement: EFSA seeks feedback from science communicators on its proposed approach for communicating uncertainty in scientific assessments, as part of effort to improve harmonization and transparency

Commentary: French farming newspaper reports dozen food activist organizations are asking BASF to explain whether herbicide-resistant rapeseed derived from mutagenesis or microspore cultures,

Commentary: GMWatch rebuts genetic engineer Devang Mehta's claims that activists are reason Golden Rice has failed, notes anthropologist calls product "disembodied and placeless," noting it doesn't grow well in areas it's intended to help

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian IGO cites Proceedings of the National Academy of Science study in reporting insect-resistant GM crops suppress crop pests, benefiting nearby conventional, organic crops

News: La Jornada Maya reports author of study finding GM corn in Mexican tortillas says no study shows that GMOs are safe, urges using the precautionary principle; the researcher, from the Union of Scientists Committed to Society, says GMO presence likely due to "industrial flour" during preparation,

News: Argentina's El Dia reports on theatrical release of Pino Solanas' documentary, "Trip to the fumigated towns," documenting health and environmental consequences of Argentina's use of transgenic crops and agrochemicals

Commentary: Brazilian NGO Movement of Landless Rural Workers reports National Fair of Agrarian Reform promotes agroecology and organic production, says government has no interest in agrarian reform

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia-based journalist writes part 4 of 5-part series for Devex, notes GMOs gaining support in developing countries with promise of increased yields, lower production costs to aid smallholder farmers and increase exports, says Philippines leading charge while Thailand is open but concerned over public backlash

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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In global biotechnology developments today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a draft of its proposed GMO labeling rule. Media and stakeholders also commented on developments regarding synthetic and cultured meat.

- U.S. media and stakeholders reported the USDA released a proposed rule using the term "bioengineered food" rather than "genetically modified" or "genetically engineered" and allowing QR code usage. Food & Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter claimed the rule will "keep consumers in the dark as it is intended." *Bloomberg* reported the agency left "wiggle room" to define GMOs by percentage of GM ingredient content and whether highly processed foods such as high fructose corn syrup are GMOs. The USDA set a July 3 deadline for public comments on the rule. **See more**
- A *Care2* contributor noted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says the heme from the Impossible Burger is "generally recognized as safe" and noted the company is voluntarily working with the agency although it's not required to do so. *Global Meat News* reported Tyson Foods invested in an Israeli company to produce cultured meat. The company, Future Meat Technologies, is developing technology to produce non-GMO meat directly from animal cells. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico reports USDA release proposed rule on federal GMO labeling requirements, will refer to GM food as "bioengineered food" will give 60 days to submit public comments,

News: Canada-based food producer news site reports Canadian breeders, seed tech companies worried that Canadian agencies have not announced how they will be regulated; CropLife Canada VP worries regs could put Canadian products at disadvantage, C-BAN official believes gene editing should be regulated

Commentary: Food & Water Watch's Wenonah Hauter criticizes USDA's proposed GMO labeling rule, says it will "keep consumers in the dark as intended;" says calling food "bioengineered" is deceptive, allowing QR codes keeps information away from many without smart phones

Commentary: University of Florida's Kevin Folta criticizes Paul Thacker's lack of integrity, deconstructs his article in *The Progressive* **criticizing GMOs and biotech industry, says he's disappointed in The Progressive for running wildly inaccurate article by Thacker**

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association notes organic farmer claims regenerative farming is single solution to many world problems, including climate change, polluted water from fertilizer runoff

More North America items

Africa

News: Agence France-Presse reports on challenges faced by African farmers seeking to control fall armyworm, Agrochemicals Association of Kenya's Patrick Amuyunzu noted some pesticides have been identified as effective, drawing from Latin America's experience

News: South African news outlet reports on Johannesburg organic farm Brightside, owned by Janet and Eric Diack, highlights their efforts to care for their animals' well being, points to "tasteless" background of GE chickens, bred to have very few feathers

More Africa items

Asia

News: India rural news site reports farmers plant Bt cotton on 90 percent of cotton fields, but pink bollworm developed resistance to the GMO and pesticides, devastating cotton crops and farmers' livelihoods

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: The Irish Times writer notes gene editing allows precise changes to plants, has massive potential for good, but questions if Europe will seek to ban the products if it's difficult or impossible to distinguish gene-edited from conventional products

Commentary: German naturopath claims GM maize grown with atrazine, glyphosate, links to increase in prostate cancer incidence, claims atrazine an EDC, cites Center for Biological Diversity report, Tyrone Hayes

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance criticizes member states for voting in favor of reauthorizing Monsanto's glyphosate-tolerant GM sugar beet variety, notes some of those same member states also seek neonic ban exemptions to help beet farmers

Commentary: Slow Food social media director writes for Italian news site to debunk study by Santâ Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa showing GMOs are safe; claims only 76 studies considered and those are tainted by conflicts of interest, notes the study does not take pesticide application into account for herbicide-tolerant GM crops

News release: Wageningen University & Research announces publication of booklet entitled "Plant breeding techniques in a new era," with goal of providing plant breeders and the public with information on most recent developments

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture (IFOAM) EU Group and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) announce publication of study which found that coexistence between organic/non-GM and GM ag is not possible, call for regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian consumer protection organization notes more than 100 groups signed an email objecting to legislation that would end requirement to include "T" symbol on transgenic food, would allow food with up to 1 percent GM ingredients to be labeled as "GMO free"

Campaign: Germany-based NGO dedicated toward saving rain forests launches petition drive to stop Mercosur treaty, says deal will flood Europe with South American beef at expense of jungles and forests

Commentary: Mexican science and technology agency Conacyt publishes article amplifying National Autonomous University of Mexico researcher's study finding GM corn and pesticide in Mexican tortillas; researcher says at minimum food companies should label GM food, but that won't stop damage to consumers' health

Commentary: Bolivian NGO claims GM corn cultivation in Bolivia threatens to contaminate native corn varieties

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

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In global biotechnology developments today, environmental activist Vandana Shiva weighed in on the Delhi High Court decision revoking Monsanto's cotton patents. In the U.S., media outlets analyzed news that federal GMO labeling guidance could be delayed.

- In a statement for *Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, Shiva applauded a Delhi High Court decision revoking Monsanto's patents on some Bt cotton varieties. Shiva highlighted her role in helping to draft the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers Rights Act 2001, noting that the "farmers rights" clause reinforced the country's support for seed freedom. **See more**
- Food and agriculture news outlets continued to amplify a statement from U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, who warned last week that the agency was likely to miss its July 29 deadline for releasing GMO labeling guidance. A *Food Dive* analysis noted that the delay opens opportunities for states to implement their own guidance. Meanwhile, *Food Chemical News* reported that the White House had completed its review of the proposal. **See more**

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North America

News: Food Processing reports on USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's statement that the agency will likely miss July 29 deadline for creating its GMO disclosure rule, attributing the delay to White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) reviews

News: Food Chemical News reports on White House's completion of its review of GMO disclosure rule on April 30 (subscription required)

News: FoodNavigator reports synthetic meat companies says US Cattlemen's Association effort to restrict lab-created meat from using terms "beef" or "meat" would have undermine innovation

News: Local news outlets report on Former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich's gubernatorial campaign's release of details regarding consulting fees, $115,000 came from anti-GMO group Center for Food Safety in 2016, amid GMO labeling debate

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Marc Brazeau concludes three-part series on insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant biotech crops, examines benefits of reduced pesticide use, increased yields and farmer incomes in developing nations

Commentary: Hawaiian lifestyle magazine touts Hawaii ban of chlorpyrifos as "turning point" in effort to protect health of residents, notes prevalence of pesticide use during research, development of GE crops to stress significance of pesticide spray reporting requirements, no-spray zones

News release: Center for Food Safety welcomes Hawaii's passage of chlorpyrifos ban and increased requirements for restricted-use pesticides, includes statements from CFS attorney Sylvia Wu and Gary

Hooser of Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action

Commentary: Gary Hooser of Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) writes for The Garden Island, welcomes passage of bill banning chlorpyrifos and adding requirements for restricted-use pesticides, recounts the five-year process

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science highlights Mozambican youth leader Nelson Salvador Balate's assessment that utilizing ag technology and getting young people involved is the key to boosting food security, highlights GM maize development

Commentary: Christopher Crellin of Future Directions International promotes International Centre for Research in the Dry Areas' (ICARDA) new drought-tolerant durum wheat variety, highlights potential to improve food security in Sub-Saharan Africa

Commentary: Oakland Institute's Flora Sonkin argues New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) is losing ground in victory for groups opposed to corporatization of agriculture, points to France's withdrawal and Doing Business Report revelations

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Asian Age, applauds Delhi High Court decision on cotton patents, adds that companies such as Monsanto see "seed freedom" as a problem because they want to change seed from renewable resource to "non-renewable commodity"

News: Indian news site reports Punjab Agricultural University's Bt cotton variety ready for trials, researchers hope variety proves more resistant to bollworm than current market varieties

News release: IndiaGMInfo says regulators, government ministries "pass the buck" on illegal GM seed imports; claims large volumes of GM seed pour into country

News: India's Business Today reports Bayer-Monsanto purchase focus shifts to India; notes Russian approval was contingent on technology transfer to the country from Bayer and Monsanto, notes anti-monopoly groups suggesting the same for India

More Asia items

Europe

News release: German NGO Testbiotech claims biotech lobbyists making untruthful assertions regarding gene editing, including that changes are indistinguishable from conventional breeding, says Testbiotech favors regulating gene-edited products as GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) announces May 4 seminar to present book addressing food and nutritional security in the Americas; project developed by Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences

Report: The Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences issues report outlining challenges and opportunities for food security in the Americas; among country-level breakdowns and assessments, overall findings highlight importance of biotechnology and other technological innovations

Commentary: Emiro Vera Suarez of Venezuelan NGO Aporrea examines Russia's ban on imports from the West containing transgenics, notes Russia's goal is to ensure that the population does not get sick, argues Venezuela is also infiltrated by the West

News: Mexican news site reports National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations coordinator criticizes government for not promoting domestic agriculture, importing food from U.S.; claims GM food is poor quality, poisonous, causes cancer

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Tasmanian government includes GMO moratorium review in its 2018 agenda from state Premier Will Hodgman; review is slated for third quarter

News: New Zealand news site reports Environment Court may force Federated Farmers to pay court costs for district councils, NGO after challenging right to legislate genetic engineering on local level

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a new report from a U.K. trade group warning that a U.S. trade deal could undermine environmental regulations and risk agricultural exports. Two articles in Uganda's *New Vision* highlighted the impact of anti-biotechnology activism in the country.

- The U.K. Parliament International Trade Committee released a new report warning that efforts to cement a trade deal with the U.S. could lead to problematic compromises in environmental and agricultural standards. The wide-ranging report noted the impacts of a deal on a number of industries but noted that U.S. food production standards for chicken and GM crops did not meet U.K. consumer expectations. The group concluded that Britain risked sacrificing its standing in EU markets. **See more**
- Uganda's *New Vision* highlighted research delays caused by anti-biotechnology activism in the region. An opinion column by prominent science communicator Mark Lynas pointed to the stalled rollout of new, ecologically friendly crops, including drought-tolerant maize and a banana resistant to bacterial wilt. A separate news report quoted scientists at a news briefing organized by the Tropical Institute of Development Innovations, which warned that the revised draft biosafety law imposed research-ending restrictions on GM crops. **See more**
- Nigeria's *Leadership*, in a wide-ranging article that summarized and conflated many anti-GMO myths, reported that the newspaper had found Bt corn toxins in pregnant women's blood. The report also claimed milk from cows fed GMOs was cancerous and added that European researchers had found rats fed GM tomatoes died of stomach ulcers. The source for many of the claims, Global Prolife Alliance's Philip C. Njemanze, added that supportive GMO studies were "junk" because they were funded by the Gates Foundation. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Marc Brazeau writes second article in three-part series on impact of GMOs on pesticide use for Genetic Literacy Project, examines data and evidence of environmental impacts of GM crop adoption and changes in herbicide and insecticide use

Commentary: Science Moms neuroscientist Alison Bernstein explores concept of safety, including overview of minimal risk categories used by FDA and EPA to define safety

Commentary: Sarah Schultz writes for Canada's Grainews, explains why she refuses to pay a premium for organic food, argues conventional foods, including GMOs, are just as healthy and nutritious, and might be more environmentally friendly

Commentary: Margaret Wente of Canada's Globe and Mail summarized controversy over University of Alberta's decision to grant David Suzuki an honorary degree, labels Suzuki "a menace to scientific inquiry," points to his claims about GMOs and pesticides

News: Food Dive reports on USDA Secretary Perdue's statement that the agency may not be able to meet July 29 deadline for publishing final GMO labeling rules, highlights potential problems with a

delay, reports states like Vermont may try to enforce their own laws

News: Progressive Farmer reports on challenges for products of gene editing, such as lag in U.S. regulation and consumer understanding, highlights current U.S. and international regulation on GMOs, and rising popularity of organic and non-GMO products

Commentary: Sam Bloch of The New Food Economy examines several types of GE animals that never made it to market due to regulatory hurdles, includes flu-resistant chickens, hornless dairy cattle and disease-resistant pigs

News: Associated Press reports farmers in Montana and other agricultural states are feeling effects of President Trump's unpredictable approach to trade, with growing China conflict a particular concern

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Uganda's New Vision, recounts recent visit where he observed exciting biotech developments by local scientists, laments negative impact of anti-GMO activism on Uganda's scientific innovation, points to delay in biosafety bill

News: Uganda's New Vision reports on ag scientists' criticism of Parliamentary recommendations for changes to biosafety bill as too restrictive; Tropical Institute of Development Innovations director Clet Masiga noted delays in ag innovation will worsen hunger

Commentary: Chika Okeke of Nigeria's Leadership says the newspaper found insecticide produced by GM corn in blood of pregnant women and their fetuses, links GMOs and glyphosate to several health disorders, claims the U.S. government has banned importation and consumption of GM foods

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian business, financial news site reports grain farmers conference features discussion on need for EU growers to compete with global market, answer consumer demands for healthier options by reducing pesticide use, growing non-GMO crops, notes EU moving toward pesticide restrictions

More Asia items

Europe

News release: U.K. Parliament's International Trade Committee warns against rushing into trade negotiations with the U.S., emphasizing need for an evidence-based trade strategy; Committee Chair Angus MacNeil highlighted potential impact on U.K. agriculture

News: Business Insider reports on U.K. Parliament International Trade Committee report warning that a U.S. trade deal could impact trade with the EU, highlights concerns about lowering ag and food standards, such as hormones in beef and GMO labeling

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, re-examines his opinion on GMO labeling in context of debate in Brazil, argues Brazil's current label could imply that GMOs are harmful, advocates smart label systems to give consumers information

Commentary: Nature's Jeff Tollefson analyzes Brazilian conservative congressional coalition's push to weaken environmental regulations prior to Oct. election, highlights proposed legislation to open Amazon rainforest to sugarcane farming

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Devex publishes fourth article in five-part series on GMOs, examining political drivers for GM crop adoption in developing countries, with focus on climate change, food security, local economies and influence of foreign trade partners

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator issues invitation for comment on proposed risk assessment of CSIRO's release of GM rust disease-resistant bread wheat and durum wheat

Commentary: Jody Scott of Vogue Australia examines question of whether it's safe to eat soy, highlights naturopath and nutritionist Ema Taylor's warning against eating GM soy sprayed with toxic herbicides, highlights link to health disorders, endocrine disruption

Commentary: Russian English-language news site What Does It Mean promotes Russian phytosanitary agency's supposed claim that Australian government partnered with Monsanto to grow GM wheat, resulting in death of 21 million kangaroos

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that the European Commission approved BASF's purchase of Bayer assets, clearing the way for Bayer's takeover of Monsanto.

- The European Commission announced that it had conditionally approved BASF's purchase of Bayer's seeds portfolio and crop science business. The decision allows Bayer's purchase of Monsanto, which was contingent on these sales, to move forward. The European Commission added that BASF would be required to sell off some of its herbicides portfolio as part of the deal. **See more**
- California researchers announced they've identified the molecular mechanism behind how Huanglongbing, or citrus greening, prevents trees from fighting off the infection. The researchers highlighted the potential for this discovery to lead to a new generation of gene-edited plants resistant to the disease. **See more**

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North America

News release: University of California, Riverside announces researchers advance understanding of molecular mechanism of citrus greening, the team is now investigating details of how protein SDE1 suppresses proteases, with goal of using CRISPR to create resistance

Study: Study in Nature Communications by University of California, Riverside-led research team identifies mechanism by which Huanglongbing (HLB) inhibits inhibits protease activity in citrus trees

Commentary: Josh Bloom of American Council on Science and Health amplifies European Journal of Cancer study which found that many people believe in mythical causes of cancer, such as GMOs, notes it demonstrates that spread of misinformation is effective

Commentary: Writing for the Genetic Literacy Project, Marc Brazeau publishes first in three-part series arguing that development of Roundup Ready and Bt crops are most substantial innovations in sustainable agriculture in three decades, lays out context for their assessment

News: Hoosier Ag Today reports on difficulty in encouraging biotech acceptance in China, as part of a U.S. soybean producer delegation to China, Doug Winter noted he had to explain that U.S. farmers eat GM foods with no adverse health effects

Interview: Boca magazine interviews Dr. Oz, regarding GMOs, he voices opposition to those designed to tolerate pesticides, which he claims are harmful to human health and the environment, he believes non-browning apples are fine

More North America items

Africa

Report: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa launches seed policy report on World Intellectual Property Day challenging policy shift favoring corporate takeover of African seed systems; report is one of three in series, other two focus on land rights and agroecology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports government calls on policy think tank NITI Aayog to play peacemaker in GMO debate, with goal of bringing supporters and opponents of the technology together in discussion, the April 26 meeting was canceled, to be rescheduled

Commentary: Physician Eduardo Gonzales writes for Manila Bulletin, examines pros and cons of GM food, highlights benefits such as pesticide use and biofortification, but points to potential risks to beneficial insects and human health

More Asia items

Europe

News release: EU Commission announces conditional approval of BASF's acquisition of parts of Bayer's Crop Science business, as part of Bayer's divestment commitments for its acquisition of Monsanto, BASF agreed to certain divestments as well

News release: Agricultural NGO Abl criticizes German federal government decision to renew import license for glyphosate resistant GM sugar beet, claiming retailers and producers increasingly rely on GM-free materials to meet popular demand

News: Germany's Taz reports Green party's dietary spoksewoman Renate Kunast rejects the party's proposed consideration of new GE methods, arguing there is no guarantee that gene editing would eliminate need for pesticides

News release: German organic farming association Bioland resolution calls for solid regulations from new federal government to exclude GMOs and classify and label new gene editing methods as GE

Commentary: Andre Heitz of Science Technologies Actions collective writes for France's Agora Vox, amplifies recent study demonstrating unexpected benefit that Bt maize reduces pesticide use on neighboring vegetable crops, examines continued EU GMO opposition

Video: France Televisions reports on detection of unlicensed GMOs in animal feed in France (video cannot be accessed in the U.S.)

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson criticizes recent Economist magazine article supporting use of GM Bt maize in Africa to fight fall armyworm invasion, points to Brazilian study demonstrating armyworm's resistance to Bt toxin

News release: Wageningen University and Research announces re-analysis of research comparing organic and conventional ag shows inconsistencies in the original publication, which made it erroneously appear that organic crop yield was increasing on average

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Timothy A. Wise of Small Planet Institute writes for Food Tank, examines leading Mexican presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's endorsement of Farm Movement's Plan de Ayala 2.0, which bans GMOs, promotes agroecology

Commentary: Catarino Mendoza Gutierrez writes for Mexico's El Sol De Salamanca, examines concerns about protecting native corn varieties from transgenics, amplifies recent press conference where Steven

Druker spoke about dangers of GMOs

News: Mexico's Diario De Quintana Roo reports on recent Fiesta de las Semillas Nativas (Native Seed Festival), as part of joint strategy by Yucatan Peninsula producers in refusal to use transgenics, farmers traded and exchanged seeds

News: Bolivia's Chaco Dia Por Dia reports on Mandela Center report on El Juramento ranch, it highlights clearing of protected area for transgenic crops, authorized by Directorate of Forests

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 - April 30, 2018
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 4 03:22 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a series of articles that dig into some of the hottest food and agriculture topics of the day: the European ban on neonics, the U.S. farm bill and Environmental Working Group's "Dirty Dozen" list.

There's also a column from *The New York Times* that describes how science has yet to prove any real threats from genetically modified food - and how it could benefit developing countries.

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: Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) was founded in 2014 by activist Gary Hooser with board members from the environmental law group Earthjustice and other environmental, labor and political organizations.

HAPA has primarily engaged in lobbying efforts to ban GMOs

Stories Worth Sharing

Jane Brody: Fears about GMOs are "theoretical," but benefits in developing countries could be real

Jon Entine: Why was Europe set on banning neonics when rest of world sees little threat to bees?

Amanda Zaluckyj: U.S. farm bill's $25M earmark for organic agriculture should instead be used to benefit all types of farming

Lindsay Burgess: It's OK to ignore the "Dirty Dozen" list

Joe Schwarz: Environmental Working Group sounds false alarm about pesticides on produce because it "keeps donations coming in"

Toban Dyck: Agriculture can always improve, but calling pesticides and GMOs "unhealthy and environmentally harmful is inaccurate"

Henry Miller and Drew Kershen: IFOAM ensures organic practices are to agriculture "what cigarette smoking is to human health"

Joseph Opoku Gakpo: Water Efficient Maize for Africa field trials showing armyworm resistance

Carrie Dennett: Don't let "Dirty Dozen" scare you away from buying produce

Chuck Dinerstein: Will Congress make the right call on who should oversee GM food and animals?

and pesticide usage in Hawaii. The group is closely affiliated with the Center for Food Safety Hawaii office, which is a co-litigant with Earthjustice on numerous anti-agriculture lawsuits, and the organic industry-funded Hawaii SEED group.

Hooser, who formerly served as the Hawaiian Senate majority leader and a Kauai County Council member, was recently recruited by Swiss NGO Public Eye to aid in its promotion in Switzerland of the documentary "Poisoning Paradise" that claims agrochemical companies' use of pesticides on open-air GMO labs in Kauai harms the health of Hawaiians.

Hooser has been active recently advocating for passage of a Hawaii bill that would ban the use of chlorpyrifos. The bill passed out of the legislature's conference committee Friday and votes in both chambers are expected Tuesday.

Click HERE to learn more about HAPA.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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What's Trending?

European member states approve outdoor ban of neonics

U.S. advocacy targets: Farm Bill rollback of endangered species protections / EPA science transparency initiative

U.K. cancer research firm lists GMOs among "mythical" factors public wrongly believes cause cancer

Comment period on U.S. glyphosate review concludes

Calendar highlights

May 2-4	May 3	May 9-10
Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm conventions symposium: "Chemicals and wastes and the prevention of soil pollution"	Princeton University "Science for the People" panel featuring Tyrone Hayes	International Food Policy Research Institute dialogue: "Towards Agricultural Innovation in Ghana: An Evidence-Based Approach"

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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Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018 9:01:33 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of an AquaBounty facility in Indiana. The Jamaican government will review the country's national seed policy as a program works to make GM potato seeds available to farmers.

- The FDA announced it approved AquaBounty's facility in Indiana, where it will produce AquAdvantage salmon. Although the facility is approved for production, the company is prohibited from importing the eggs needed to produce GE salmon due to an FDA appropriations law. **See more**
- The Jamaican Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry announced it will review the national seed policy, with a goal of establishing a sustainable seed system. Minister Audley Shaw said Jamaica's seed program is using biotechnology to produce potato seeds for farmers. **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: The Progressive Farmer reports gene editing could bring innovative crops to market more quickly, but regulators, consumers lag behind

News: Wired updates its guide to CRISPR technology, says today's scientists beginning to edit DNA almost as easily as software engineers modify code, argues CRISPR won't end disease or hunger anytime soon but is beginning to reshape world around us; piece predicts more regulation as CRISPR applications get more powerful

News: Ozy reports University of California, Davis' Alison Van Eenennaam using gene-editing to create cows without horns, reduce livestock environmental footprint

Commentary: Houston Chronicle runs op-ed by GMO Answers expert Neva Cochran reflecting on Amazon's takeover of Whole Foods, calling on new owner to move supermarket chain away from fear-based labeling, including gluten-free, non-GMO and no added hormones

News: Reuters reports Bayer's bid to buy Monsanto on track to win U.S. antitrust approval by end of May, barring last-minute complications; deal would create company commanding more than 25 percent of combined world market for seeds and pesticides

News: Science magazine highlights attempts by California researchers to develop gene drive approach to combat spotted wing fruit fly, creating lethal "cargo gene" to kill flies exposed to specific chemical compound, or even to heat; other geneticists question whether gene drive can remain in population of pest for a long time

Commentary: Ontario Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation writing in Toronto Sun denounces David Suzuki as "charlatan" pretending to be environmentalist; notes Suzuki claims GM food dangerous despite absence of scientific proof

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news site reports biotechnologist says GMOs can solve fall armyworm problem in Africa to help farmers avoid losses, affirms GM crop safety

News: News Ghana reports National Biosafety Authority director says country needs GMOs to battle armyworm, but activists claim GM crops threaten health, environment, and countryâ€™s economy,

News: South African news site reports GM crops are answer to Zimbabweâ€™s struggles against armyworm, increasing food production and nutritional value

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian business newspaper reports Indian National Congress election manifesto promises to develop sustainable agricultural plan for Karnataka province that will focus on GM crops, integrated pest management

Commentary: Member of National Academy of Science and Technology argues against making environmental rights part of new Philippine Bill of Rights, cites judges' ruling in case against GM eggplant that genetic engineering deprived pests of food, upsetting balance of nature

Commentary: India NGO promotes TWN agroecology report; claims gender bias against women favors high yield technology over "healthier, environmentally superior" indigenous knowledge

More Asia items

Europe

News: Wired's Italian edition reports ag entrepreneur Giorgio Fidenato won right to plant GM maize, questions why so many Italians remain frightened of GMOs, calls for considering science of the issue, predicts Fidenato's action alone unlikely to change situation in Italy, terms his stand a "battle of principle"

News: BBC reports universities' study shows many Europeans believe in mythical cancer causes, including GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: Jamaican agency announces cabinet will review national seed policy; notes program is developing potato seeds using biotechnology

Commentary: Cida de Oliveira of Rede Brasil Atual reports lawsuit filed questioning National Technical Biosafety Commission's decision to commercially release transgenic soybean, maize and cotton seeds resistant to glyphosate; writer notes majority of corn, soybeans and cotton grown in Brazel transgenic but pesticide use keeps going up

News release: Brazilian city announces PhD in medical science discussed genetic engineering with health department employees, pointing out advantages, but warned GM crops contaminate environment, long-term consequences of GM food consumption unknown

News: Venezuelan news site reports group urges government to support Venezuela Free of Transgenic campaign by supporting peasant farmers to resist GMO cultivation

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 monitoring included two favorable developments in Europe, as well as reports of illegal GMOs in India and Zambia.

- The European Academies Science Advisory Council released a new report, "Opportunities and Challenges for Research on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture in Europe," which argues the current food system in Europe is unsustainable. It promotes a shift to climate-smart agriculture, including the adoption of plant breeding innovations. **See more**
- Cancer Research U.K. funded a study released today by researchers at the University College London and the University of Leeds that found the public often believes in "mythical" causes of cancer, including GMOs. A representative of Cancer Research U.K. attributed the misconceptions to fake news. Several U.K. news outlets amplified the survey. **See more**
- Authorities in Asia and Africa are responding to the illegal presence of GMOs. India's *Nagpur Today* reported local police and agriculture department officials seized a large stock of illegal, herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds in Beltarodi (**see more**). Meanwhile, a Zambian news outlet reported a seizure of food products containing GM ingredients from supermarkets in Lusaka, led by team of National Biosafety Authority, Zambia Police and Lusaka City Council officers. According to the report, some products were found to contain GMO levels up to 90 percent (**see more**).

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

North America

Audio: USDA radio report updates progress of agency's attempts to develop labels under the GMO food labeling law passed by Congress in 2016; USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue says it's unlikely agency will meet July 1 deadline to present final proposed rules for public comment

Commentary: Canadian activist Tony Mitra warns supporters against controlled opposition to GMOs, notes GMO opposition in India ignores dangers of glyphosate while focusing on Monsanto's cotton patents, urges them to confront politicians

Commentary: Henry Miller and Jeff Stier write for American Greatness, criticizing Earth Day for promoting anti-technology activism, they believe activists should support modern technologies like genetic engineering and state of the art agrochemicals

Commentary: Devang Mehta of ETH Zurich writes for Massive Science, reviews "Seeds of Science" by Mark Lynas, praises him for giving African farmers and scientists a platform, voices disappointment in his occasional agreement with anti-GM objections

News: Digital media site run by Penn State University students reports on screening of "Food Evolution" documentary on campus, followed by Q-and-A session with panel including Sarah Evanega, director of Cornell Alliance for Science; she says film has been meaningful for partners in Africa who see own

challenges depicted

News: Reuters reports three North Dakota farmers file class action against Texas plaintiffs' firm Watts Guerra, alleging it duped 60,000 farmers into signing 40 percent contingency fee agreements in nationwide litigation against Syngenta, then cut secret deals to save fees by excluding Watts clients from state, federal class actions

More North America items

Africa

News release: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa announces release of report urging governing bodies to reject intellectual property rights on African seeds

Interview: Malawi development consultant group Imani publishes transcript of interview with consultant Victor Mponda-Banda in The Times, on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, he highlights Malawi's progress towards implementation

News: Zambia's Q-FM reports on seizure of food products containing GM ingredients from supermarkets in Lusaka, led by team of National Biosafety Authority, Zambia Police and Lusaka City Council officers, some products were found to contain 90 percent GMOs

News: Times of Zambia reports on National Bio-safety Authority's seizure of products from Choppies Lake Road superstores containing GMOs without proper sales permits, NBA's Christopher Simuntala noted the items will be burned

News release: West African Committee for Peasant Seeds (COASP) criticizes report by National Academy of Science and Technology of Senegal (ANSTS) for positive stance on GMOs, points to financial risks to farmers and evidence of health risks

More Africa items

Asia

News: People's Television Network reports Monsanto Philippines official warns about continued proliferation of illegal biotech corn, Bt corn seeds in country, points out absence of refuge in counterfeit seeds puts Bt technology at risk of having pests such as corn borer develop resistance to Bt corn, threatening nation's corn industry

News: Pakistan Observer recaps conference on "Innovation and Commercialisation of Biotechnology" held at Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; speaker asserts government has done much to develop biotech; dean of Malaysia University calls for consensus on biotech development among different nations

News: The International News reports Pakistan officials announce tighter regulatory checks of cargoes to curb trade of tainted GM rice, with strict scrutiny of inbound and exporting rice consignments, since Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan complained about EU rejecting consignments after detecting GM rice in some shipments

Report: Paper in Current Opinion in Plant Biology examines potential for genome editing to accelerate development of climate-change ready crops, authors note importance of integrating different disciplines and involving multiple stakeholders

News: India's Nagpur Today reports on seizure of large stock of illegal herbicide tolerant Bt cotton seeds by Beltarodi police and Agriculture Department officials, farmer Ashok Bapurao Kamble in Panzri village was booked under several provisions of the law

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: EuropaBio Secretary General John Brennan writes sponsored content for Politico EU, highlights exciting advances in biotech in medicine, food production, and environmental protection, calls for science-based policies, end to GMO opposition

Commentary: Inf'OGM claims "hidden GMOs" produced via mutagenesis "present same risks" as herbicide-tolerant GMOs and are progressing throughout Europe

Report: EASAC report on food sustainability urges EU to make changes to food system rather than addressing only production, reducing food waste, using new technology, innovation, and utilizing resources more efficiently

Study: Study in European Journal of Cancer examines prevalence of beliefs about actual and mythical causes of cancer, authors note that since one third of participants believe GMOs and food additives cause cancer, continued monitoring of risk perceptions is warranted

Report: Report by Wageningen University & Research examines developments of new plant breeding techniques, highlighting opportunities for sustainable production of healthy food, and helping meet challenges posed by climate change

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlets report on Steven Druker's recent visit and presentation of his book, "Altered Genes, Twisted Truth," highlighting health risks, anti-GMO scientist Antonio Turrent Fernandez called for reduction of GM corn imports from the U.S.

News: Brazilian news site reports more than 100 civil society groups sign letter protesting changes to Brazil's GM food labeling law, call the changes "anti-democratic"

Commentary: Columnist for Brasil De Fato, Mario Augusto Jakobskind, describes Senate Environment Committee's approval of removing GMO symbol as "an affront to the Brazilian people," accuses them of favoring agribusiness interests

News: Panamanian ag news outlet reports on Technical Secretariat of the National Biosafety Commission for Genetically Modified Organisms' (STCNB) call for civil society representatives to participate in the commission, candidates may be nominated through May 4

Commentary: Victor M. Toledo of National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) writes for La Jornada, points to scientists' defense of GMOs as an example of "robotization" of science, argues that GMOs pose risks to human health and the environment

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand Minister of Agriculture announces members of Primary Sector Council, which will give independent strategic advice to government on issues confronting primary industries; Minister Damien O'Connor says council may help plans for sustainable development, technological opportunities

News: The Australian reports on U.K. universities' study findings that people swayed by social media believe in mythical cancer risks such as GMOs, stress, cell phones, artificial sweeteners, but are unaware of some known risks

News release: New Zealand NGO GE Free Northland applauds court decision affirming district council's right to manage or ban GMO use in regional plan, urges Federated Farmers to "withdraw their vexations" against other councils

News: The West Australian reports on National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia general

manager Mark Anderson's assessment that relaxing the zero tolerance rule for GMOs in organic would hurt organic growers in international markets

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 statement from Peru's environment ministry affirming that GM maize had not been detected in monitored fields. In India, an investigation into illegal Bt cottonseed sales was extended. Controversy over GMO labeling changes in Brazil continued.

- In a statement amplified in local media outlets, Peru's environment ministry reported that tests of over 60 monitored maize fields detected no transgenic presence. The results confirm a similar analysis from 2017. Peru's moratorium on GM crop cultivation extends through 2021. **See more**
- A Special Investigation Team looking in to the illegal sales of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton in Maharashtra has requested additional time, adding that the illegal seeds appear to be produced in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat and thus would require an interstate investigation. Maharashtra officials had not yet announced their decision. **See more**
- Controversy over updates to Brazil's GMO labeling regulations continued, with celebrity chef Paola Carosella calling for the Senate to reject the proposed changes and preserve consumers' right to know. Brazil's Small Farmers Movement (MPA) similarly rejected the draft law, calling it a "huge setback" for environmental and human rights. **See more**

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

North America

News release: USDA Agricultural Research Service announces partnership with Earth BioGenome Project, international cooperative initiative to sequence DNA of more than 1.5 million species, predicts effort will yield millions of new solutions to agriculture's challenges, like new ways to control insect pests

Commentary: Henry Miller and Drew Kershen write for Genetic Literacy Project, examining IFOAM-Organics International's science denial in its refusal to recognize modern technologies, they highlight several disadvantages of organic ag

News: Modern Farmer looks at legal status of vegan Impossible Burger that uses soy "heme" to "bleed" like real meat, notes FDA "still evaluating" whether to issue official approval of burger, already being sold by major nationwide restaurant chains; Impossible Foods secured "generally regarded as safe" approval

Commentary: Forbes contributor Steven Savage highlights Swiss company's new technology that can detect, reject individual corn kernels contaminated with cancer-causing aflatoxin, also notes insect-resistant GM maize reduces incidence of infections, "gene silencing" strategy could prevent toxin

Video: Farms.com talks to Corteva's Bryce Eger about the formation of the Corteva brand out of the DowDuPont merger, explains meaning of brand's name, mission statement

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA argues proposed boost in funding for organic research as part of 2018 Farm Bill should be invested in research to help entirety vs. single area of agriculture, notes organic's obsession with "natural" means it excludes many practices that are better for environment

Commentary: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialist Steve Byrns reports entomologist warns cotton farmers in state could face growing bollworm problem this season, says Bt cotton plants have lost effectiveness, recommends spraying, integrated crop management methods to gain control

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science examines discovery that Mozambique's Water Efficient Maize for Africa field trials are demonstrating resistance to fall armyworm pest, in addition to drought and stem borer

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on Target Malaria's plans to release sterile male GE mosquitoes to help curb spread of malaria, Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (Copagen) argues all security guarantees have not yet been met

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports a special investigation team (SIT) charged with looking into sale of illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds seeks an extension for submitting its report, as it is an inter-state matter, highlights another SIT for recent pesticide deaths

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: EFSA responds to Dow AgroSciences' request for competent national authority in Finland to set import tolerance for quizalofop-P-ethyl in grain from GM maize with aad-1 gene, EFSA finds risks to human health unlikely

Commentary: Anti-GMO French NGO inf'OGM criticizes Canada's approval for marketing of golden rice, noting International Rice Research Institute said it would not sell golden rice in Canada, but countries where golden rice might help address vitamin A deficiency could rely on Canadian assessment

Commentary: Slow Food President Carlo Petrini writes for The European Sting, voices opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, argues it will create a de facto monopoly and threaten food sovereignty, points to risks associated with glyphosate and neonics

Commentary: Doro Schreier of German anti-GMO NGO Netzfrauen examines experimentation with GMOs and pesticides in Hawaii by large biotech companies, highlights overturning of Maui's GMO moratorium, points to health risks of pesticide exposure

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Peru's Diario Voces reports on Environment Ministry's monitoring of 60 yellow corn fields in San Martin for presence of GMOs, operating within framework of Moratorium on Living Modified Organisms Law, the ministry did not find any evidence of GMOs

News: Peruvian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry's release of results of monitoring in 60 yellow corn fields in San Martin for presence of GMOs, banned through Dec. 2021, the ministry found no evidence of GM corn in the fields, similar results to 2017

Campaign: Brazil's Small Farmers' Movement (MPA), along with several other NGOs, sign letter in opposition to Senate bill to remove mandatory "T" symbol from food products with GMOs, claiming there is no consensus on safety, and that it violates consumers' rights

News: Brazil's Exame reports on chef Paola Carosella's participation in campaign against removing mandatory "T" symbol from food products containing GMOs, drawing attention to the Senate bill on Twitter, highlights letter from NGOs with over 100 signatures

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports attorney for collective action against sowing of GM maize argues Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation has no basis to approve planting transgenic corn, claims case can't be compared with those involving cotton and soybeans

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: ISAAA's Crop Biotech Update runs release recapping recent Commonwealth Innovation Forum in Australia that touted innovation's role in delivering global economic productivity; academic cites delays in making GM banana variety available to Ugandan farmers through collaboration with scientists

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 letter, issued by a coalition of Brazilian NGOs, calling for a halt to GMO labeling changes. Activists in Burkina Faso launched a campaign against the use of GM mosquitoes.

- Brazilian environmental, health and food activists issued a joint letter calling on the Brazilian Senate to reject draft legislation that would remove front-of-package "T" labels on items produced with transgenic ingredients. The groups claimed that nutrition label disclosures would not be informative enough for consumers. The Senate environment committee approved the proposed changes last week. **See more**
- The Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE) in Burkina Faso launched an Avaaz petition today calling on government officials to reject the use or trial of GM mosquitoes in the country, warning of unforeseen health and environmental risks. Speaking to *aOuaga*, the Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage similarly warned that biosecurity assessments of the project were lacking. **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: Chuck Dinerstein of American Council on Science and Health voices frustration at USDA and FDA's different definitions of GM food, especially GE animals, highlights development of virus-resistant pigs, worries Congress will favor politics over science

News: Food Chemical News reports on Ag Secretary Perdue's statement that USDA is delayed in publishing its GMO disclosure rule, while it continues to collect comments from other federal agencies (subscription required)

News: Wisconsin-based dairy industry news source amplifies NMPF's "Peel Back the Label" campaign, cites Stonyfield and Danone-owned Left Field Farms among companies identified as using misleading food labeling or deceptive marketing to instigate fear in consumers in bid to increase sales

Commentary: Civil Eats contributor from FOE promotes peasant-led agroecology over industrial, GMO-using Gates Foundation promoted agribusiness practices; promoters state movement growing in Africa with FAO support and that coexistence is not an option

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science writer shares comments from Nigerian experts touting biotechnology as method to fight climate change, promote environmental conservation, combat deforestation

Campaign: Burkina Faso's Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE) launches petition to National Biosafety Agency Director, in opposition to release of GE mosquitoes for malaria control, pointing to

potential health and environmental risks

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on Target Malaria's plans to release GE mosquitoes to curb spread of malaria, highlights concerns raised by Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on cotton seed producer Quton's release of new hybrid seed with higher yield potential, Quton managing director Edworks Mhandu spoke about the company's goal of going further with biotech to enhance the sector's competitiveness

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports USDA Chief Economist Robert Johansson would not comment on Delhi High Court ruling invalidating Monsanto's Bt cotton patent, but he did emphasize necessity of protecting seed companies' intellectual property rights

News: The Hans India reports on recent state-level bio-safety capacity building workshop, where joint director of Environment Ministry said farmers can earn more profits with GM crops, noted several ag research institutes in India looking into GE methods in plants on trial basis

News: The Hindu reports on former Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad director Dr. Kumar's statement that GM crops can help address declines in farm yield, speaking on sidelines of Biosafety Capacity Building Workshop

More Asia items

Europe

News: Competition Policy International reports Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russia grants approval of Bayer-Monsanto deal, following Bayer's agreement to transfer defined technologies to Russian recipients in seed farming and digital ag sectors

Commentary: Global Green Growth Institute Director-General Frank Rijsberman writes for Inter Press Service, recounts second Global Bioeconomy Summit in Berlin, highlights discussion of whether public will accept bioeconomy, given distrust of biotech, GMOs

News release: Testbiotech criticizes publication on risks of spread of GM maize transgenes in Spain, claims it shows close collaboration between EFSA and industry, notes co-author Alan Raybould is a Syngenta employee, highlights risks of teosinte contamination

Commentary: Christof Potthof of Germany's Gene Ethical Network (GeN) describes Green party's recent statement of openness to certain new technologies as puzzling, examines media coverage and regulatory debate

Commentary: Swiss GMO-Free Alliance (SAG) examines proposal to use CRISPR to select for female chicks to prevent current practice of euthanizing male chicks, believes the new method is unlikely to be introduced in Europe due to consumer stance on GE

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Estadao reports several NGOs, including Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, linked to Ministry of Health, send letter with over 100 signatures to Senate in opposition to bill to limit GMO labeling, arguing it violates consumers' right to information

Commentary: Raquel Torres of Brazil's Outras Palavras weighs in on GMO labeling debate, argues the main issue is not with GMOs themselves, but with a production model that favors monocultures, pesticides and large companies

Commentary: Hugo Molinari of Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) writes for Cenario Agro, celebrates 20 years of GMO use in Brazil without any negative impact on health or the environment, argues Brazil can be an important player in the biotech sector

News: Mexico's La Jornada runs op-ed criticizing proposed General Law of Biodiversity as being bad for the national interests, warning it aims to privatize genetic resources, grants privileges to biotechnology industry, among others, without guaranteeing rights to information, citizen participation

Video: NGO Seeds of the Venezuelan People posts YouTube video explaining differentiated system established by country's Seed Law, which recognizes both seed subject to certification regime and so-called local seed, indigenous peasant and Afro-descendant

Commentary: Friends of the Earth's Uruguayan radio outlet, Radio Mundo Real, reports first Regional Consultation on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held April 17 in Brazil, with Latin American groups claiming regional seeds as common good in service of humanity

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australia's Cosmos magazine runs op-ed by official with Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics discussing ethical issues posed by synthetic biology; notes biologists who developed rDNA technology, from which synbio descends, enacted moratorium on rDNA while they addressed risks

More Oceania items

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

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Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 9:05:17 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 Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato re-planted a GM maize variety for the upcoming growing season. In India, a weekend stakeholders meeting on pink bollworm continued to generate commentary on Bt cotton use in the country.

- Fidenato, speaking in local video reports this weekend, announced that he had planted GM maize despite local officials' previous attempts to stop the practice. Fidenato vowed to continue to fight "illegal" GM crop restrictions, citing his vindication by a European Court of Justice ruling in late 2017. **See more**
- Indian news outlets reported on a recent stakeholders' meeting to discuss efforts to control the cotton pest pink bollworm. In a statement to *The Times of India*, the Maharashtra state agriculture minister claimed that the country's acceptance of Bt cotton had left farmers with few options for fighting the pest. **See more**
- Responding to the common "non-GMO" label, a health columnist for *The New York Times* reported that, according to scientific consensus, GM crops are safe for human and animal health. Columnist Jane Brody reviewed recent research supporting safety and benefits, and she concluded by urging GMO opponents to take a more nuanced view of the issue. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: New York Times personal health columnist Jane Brody examines persistent fear of GM foods in spite of years of study and no evidence of harm, explains how labels can be misleading, highlights several beneficial applications

News: Bloomberg reports on how China is buying its way into Europe, highlights ChemChina-Syngenta merger as biggest deal between China, Europe in 2016, provides charts showing chemicals as top investment sector for China since 2008

Letter to the editor: California newspaper runs letter from director of Center for Consumer Freedom reflecting on Earth Day, arguing genetically improved plants help Earth by saving land, reducing pesticide use, asserting studies show organic agriculture has lower yields, requires more land

Commentary: Kansas newspaper's op-ed discusses Earth Day, cites USFRA list of ways nation's ag producers improve environment, with adoption of GM crops reducing pesticide applications 36 percent over last 20 years, helping preserve 51 million acres of land in 2014 and decreasing soil erosion

More North America items

Africa

Letter to the editor: Adam Klghoma Ali Malima writes to Uganda's New Vision, recounts visit to biotech research centers in Kawan da and Namulonge, praises Ugandan scientists' advances, notes Africa needs

a developmental framework success story

Commentary: African Seed Trade Association annual newsletter highlights efforts to address fall armyworm in the region, includes commentary on biotechnology projects

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Maharashtra state Ag Minister Pandurang Phundkar's assessment that cost-intensive GM Bt cotton seed has wiped out alternatives from the market, speaking at a meeting on strategies for preventing pink bollworm attack

News: Telangana Today reports on awareness program organized by Kamareddy District Agriculture Department, and attended by 220 seed and pesticide dealers, who were warned to follow Seeds Act guidelines and not sell herbicide tolerant seeds

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Leonardo Facco writes editorial for Italian Libertarian party's blog, criticizes groups Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and Coldiretti for continued opposition to Giorgio Fidentao's GM corn sowing, amplifies Fidenato's response

Video: Italian news sites syndicate video reporting that Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato plans to continue planting GM corn, says he will continue challenging the law as Italy ignores EU laws

Event: Norway's Biotechnology Council to host debate with Danish Ethical Council in Copenhagen (May 2), on future regulation of GMOs and how to achieve sustainable agriculture in the future

News: Norwegian research news site reports on master's thesis project at Norway's Environmental and Life Sciences University (NMBU), in which researcher surveyed farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to compare attitudes on GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports team of researchers from National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) issues book, "Pesticides in the environment," that argues use of GMOs doesn't produce higher yields, warns massive use of agrochemicals leads to "vulnerability" and calls for agroecology

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Native Seeds Festival in Laguna Kana, where organizers discussed invasion of transgenics and replacement of corn crops as main challenges facing Yucatan Peninsula peasants

News: Mexico's Cronica recaps debate held at UNAM between opponents and supporters of transgenics; supporters include Francisco Bolivar Zapata, who emphasized responsible biotechnology, lack of evidence to prove transgenics harmful to human health

Interview: Mexico's El Economista talks to writer Cristina Barros Valero about role of biodiversity in Mexican cuisine, she highlights its importance, warns against adoption of transgenics, argues GM corn has achieved only resistance to glyphosate and resistance to an insect not found in Mexico

News: Brasil De Fato reports on advancement of relaxed GMO labeling measures in the Senate, highlights opposition from Consumer Protection Institute (Idec), which claims the bill violates the Consumer Protection Code

News: Agencia EFE reports on recent exhibition in Plaza de la Constitucion, where Guatemalan farmers demanded protections of native seeds and promotion of agroecology, and voiced opposition to transgenics

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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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 23, 2018
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 4 04:19 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

After NGOs marked Earth Day this weekend with a series of U.S. speeches from anti-GMO, anti-corporate activist Vandana Shiva and the spread of false claims about pesticides pushing bees toward extinction, this week's newsletter provides links to various sources' attempts to unearth some scientific facts on food and agriculture.

This week's Favorable Outcomes includes a review of bee health issues from Jon Entine, some tips from David Zaruk for communicating positive messages about pesticides and a couple of Earth Day-themed pieces. Also, Richard Roberts takes a closer look at biosafety legislation in Uganda.

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: U.S. Right to Know

An offshoot of the Organic Consumers Association, U.S. Right to Know has been a key player recently in promoting and supporting anti-pesticide litigation.

The NGO has publicized court hearings in California on claims that glyphosate causes cancer,

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: Disputing claims that bees are going extinct and pesticides are to blame

Alex Berezow: Organic Consumers Association helps spread "nonsense" claim that pesticides influence school shootings

Richard Roberts: Anti-biotech activists using poison pill amendments to Uganda biosafety bill to impose pro-poverty agenda

David Zaruk: 10 tips for communicating positive information about pesticides

Ronald Bailey: USDA decision on gene editing opens "vibrant new biotech crop and seed industry"

Will Coggin: Earth Day brings out "garbage advice" from activists to shun GMOs, support organic

Henry Miller/Jett Stier: Earth Day renews "deeply flawed" anti-pesticide claims from Rachel Carson

Mark Lynas: I changed my mind on GMOs because I "got the science wrong"

Michelle Miller: What Vandana Shiva needs to know about American family farms

as well as promoting similar claims and anti-industry messaging in seeking to boost sales of Carey Gillam's "Whitewash" book.

USRTK also actively recruits whistleblowers to expose "hidden crimes or scandals" in the food industry.

Click HERE to learn more about U.S Right to Know.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Science Codex: Friends of the Earth ignores danger to bees from common organic pesticide spinosad

USDA radio service examines whether consumer-focused GMOs can bring public acceptance

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

California court rules state can list glyphosate as potential carcinogen

Brazil's Senate approves measure to relax GMO labeling requirements

U.S. consultation on neonics ends with activists promoting submission of 219,000 negative comments

Court ruling could open door to GM crops in Italy

Vote planned Friday on proposed EU ban on outdoor uses of neonics

Calendar highlights

April 16-20	April 16-18	April 17
International Symposium on Pollination	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America meeting	International Day of Peasant Struggle
April 21-29	**April 23-24**	**April 23-24**
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements leadership course in Ghana	International Conference on Food Technology and Biotechnology	International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agroecology

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 23, 2018
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 4 03:57 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

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Michelle Miller: What Vandana Shiva needs to know about American family farms

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 20-22, 2018
Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:00:58 PM

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 commentary that a recent court decision could mean Italian farmers now can plant GM crops. A science writer reports the Impossible Burger is heading toward controversy despite studies that show it's safe. Several commentators noted that many Earth Day messages are not science-based.

- The Luca Coscioni Association's Marco Perduca wrote in *The Huffington Post* Italian edition that the Court of Udine's decision earlier in the week to dismiss charges against Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato for planting GM crops reaffirmed an EU court decision that Italy has no concrete reason to prohibit GMO cultivation. Perduca wrote that farmers throughout the country now can plant GM crops, and researchers now can apply for GMO field trial permits successfully. **See more**

- *Business Insider's* science correspondent noted recent articles indicate Impossible Food's vegan burger, which includes GM heme, is heading for controversy. However, writer Erin Brodwin pointed out that research, repeated assertions by scientists and years of people eating heme indicate no health problems. As for claims that heme may cause cancer, Brodwin wrote that studies have found no link, and in fact one study found that people who consume heme were less likely to develop cancer. **See more**

- Earth Day celebrations prompted commentary from GMO supporters such as Henry I. Miller and Jeff Stier, who wrote for *Fox News* that the event ignores science and allows "environmental activists and alarmists to warn of apocalypse, dish anti-technology dirt, and proselytize." The Center for Consumer Freedom's Will Coggin warned against taking bad Earth Day advice. One example Coggin gave was that environmentalists often warn against GM food, although biotech crops offer many environmental benefits. **See more**

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North America

News: Bloomberg reports on Impossible Burgers latest attempt to convince FDA that its GE heme is safe, Tom Neltner of Environmental Defense Fund and Ricardo Salvador of Union of Concerned Scientists acknowledge potential environmental benefits

Commentary: Henry Miller of Stanford's Hoover Institution and Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health write opinion piece for Fox News, criticizing an'ti-Trump nature of recent science march, they highlight USDA's recent pro-biotech policies

Commentary: Writing for Naples Daily News, Center for Consumer Freedom's Will Coggin warns of bad Earth Day advice, including opposition to GMO foods, which can reduce pesticide use, recommendations to eat organic, which requires more land use

Commentary: Reason magazine science correspondent Ronald Bailey urges government regulators to learn from earlier overreactions, use existing regulations for biomedical research to avoid stifling innovation

Commentary: Wisconsin State Farmer runs op-ed by executive director of The Center for Food Integrity touting need for farmers, ag industry to defend their environmental record on Earth Day, recommending

they tackle topics such as GM seeds, pitching stories to media that incorporate messages about benefits of biotechnology

News: Business Insider science correspondent reports Impossible Food's GM veggie burger heading for controversy, but notes scientists and studies on heme show no cause for concern, professor notes heme has been eaten for years without problems

Commentary: The New England Skeptical Society's NeuroLogica site posts blog by physician questioning whether elected leaders qualified to properly regulate cutting-edge science and technology, such as genetic engineering, CRISPR, other biotech; he opposes mandatory GMO labeling, largely because definition of "GMO" vague, imprecise

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports scientists angered by Parliament's changes to biosafety bill, including provision to imprison scientists if something inadvertently goes wrong with GMO, notes all new technology carry some adverse effects; says law will stifle innovation

Commentary: CLOC-La Via Campesina recaps World Day of Peasant Struggles observance held April 17 and 18 in Chile, highlighting role of peasant and indigenous women producers, criticizing "transnational offensive that seeks to patent and privatize seeds

News: Cameroon news magazine amplifies African news magazine report that Burkina Faso will introduce 10,000 male mosquitoes rendered sterile by genetic modification into wild to control malaria; NGO initiates petition against release

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports state of Sikkim's ban on some conventional products, part of its efforts to become "organic state," causing food prices to rise up to eight times normal price; efforts include seizing conventional produce and dumping at landfill, angering producers

Commentary: NGO writing in Philippine newspaper chides government for promoting GMOs owned by transnational corporations instead of supporting organic agriculture, developing farmers' skills

News: The Hans India reports police and ag officials conducted inspections at seed and pesticide shops in Kukunoorpally village for sale of illegal and counterfeit products, police warned about gov't ban on Bt-III cotton seeds, threatened legal action against violators

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: European Seed - David Zaruk offers 10 rules for communicating on pesticides amid manipulative activists using fear tools like children, bees and fear of cancer to undermine public trust in industry, related products

Commentary: Marco Perduca of Luca Coscioni Association writes for HuffPost Italy, expresses gratitude for farmer Giorgio Fidenato's civil disobedience, calls for seizing opportunity to review unjustified lack of permits for GM field trials for Italian researchers

News: Politico EU ag news roundup highlights Parliament revisions to organic regulations as European Food Safety Authority near completion of safety assessments on risks of exposure to multiple pesticides

Commentary: Corporate Europe Observatory criticizes inclusion of food industry lobbyist on short list of names for appointment to EFSA's management board

Commentary: Keine-Gentechnik reports debate within Germany's Greens Party on new GE methods such as CRISPR/Cas, with party aiming to develop new policy program amid speculation some members want to give up strict rejection of agro-genetic engineering; article notes theory that GE, biotechnology could prolong life

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports member of agricultural sciences faculty at university suggests use of transgenics, ag chemicals have contributed to development of agriculture, feeding more people, asserts challenge to provide products with least risk of harmful effects, warns Mexico depends on imported corn

News: Mexican news site interviews Greenpeace coordinator about NGO's efforts to stop GM crop cultivation in Yucatan, Greenpeace official claims GM farming hurts environment, encourages deforestation and overuse of pesticides

Campaign: Coalition of anti-transgenic NGOs letter calls on Ecuador president to suspend alleged ag and environment ministries' regulation proposing to permit transgenics for research, citing threats to biodiversity, irreversible genetic contamination

Commentary: Venezuelan left-wing news source runs op-ed by journalism professor criticizing country's lack of regulation to prevent import of GMOs, complaining about Brazilian products that list their GM and transgenic components on labels, arguing the late President Hugo Chavez opposed allowing GMOs in Venezuela

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news site reports Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development says current mechanisms effective to minimize GM crops' impact on non-GMO properties, notes no shipments rejected since adopting GM canola

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:01:30 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 proposed draft U.S. Farm Bill contains amendments addressing gene editing. In Italy, a regional court dismissed charges against a farmer accused of planting GM crops.

- U.S. media outlets reported that the draft text of the 2018 Farm Bill includes two amendments proposed by U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho of Florida. One amendment would require the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture to compile a report on how to remove regulatory barriers to gene-edited plants. A second amendment, similarly, would require FDA and USDA to issue a report on how to best streamline regulations on genetically engineered animals. The Biotechnology Innovation Organization issued a statement praising the proposals. **See more**
- In Italy, the regional Court of Udine dismissed charges against maize farmer Giorgio Fidenato over his planting of GM corn. Judge Carlotta Silva, citing a European Court of Justice ruling from earlier in the year, said that Italian law had not prohibited the maize planting at that time. **See more**

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North America

News: Agweek reports U.S. House Agriculture Committee approves 15 Republican amendments to its farm bill that would address biotechnology, other issues, including amendment to create Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program to advocate against foreign trade barriers that restrict use of GE commodities

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization reacts to amendments to farm bill passed by U.S. House Agriculture Committee, applauds how they address some of BIO's key policy priorities, notes amendment that would create Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program

Commentary: Writing in The Hill, Illinois farmer and Global Farm Network board member thanks Agriculture Secretary Perdue for decision to relieve gene-edited crops from burdensome GMO regulation, says move allows technology to flourish

Announcement: Health Canada announces approval of raw and refined sugar produced from GM sugarcane grown in Brazil for sale in Canada, says scientists found GM sugarcane posed no greater risk to human health than raw and refined sugar currently available on Canadian market

News: Writing in Yale Environment 360, science author examines whether biodegradable vaccines developed with gene editing can protect crops from pathogens, reduce pesticide use, boost yields; he suggests emerging technologies may make farming more sustainable

News release: The College of New Jersey recaps Vandana Shiva's speech, "The Transnational Politics of Science, Seeds, Power and Gender," she gave April 12 as part of 2018 Dawley Memorial Lecture, during which she urged attendees eat organic food as often as possible

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nobel laureate Sir Richard Roberts writes for Uganda's New Vision, criticizes proposed amendments to Uganda's Biosafety Bill resulting from anti-GMO activist pressure, argues they are not based on sound science and will not improve safety

News: Nigerian news source report on country's March for Science featured comments from Nigeria farmer association VP proclaiming biotechnology has potential to lift farmers

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports farmers in Mozambique hope researchers can develop improved seeds to cope with changing climate and drought; they also blame climate change for increased pest attacks, say WEMA project shows good seeds can cope with pests, weather

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Ashok Jha, independent director on Nuziveedu Seeds' board, writes for India's Financial Express, praises Delhi High Court's ruling canceling Monsanto's Bt cotton patents, notes gov't will not allow monopolists to dictate prices for essential inputs

Commentary: Hindustan Times highlights "food revolution," pitting small-scale, "de facto organic" farming against industrial ag, cites shift in science community favoring sustainable methods, suggests need for Indian farmers, government to embrace pesticide-, GMO-free approach

Commentary: Times of India's Abha Goradia examines rice farmers' return to indigenous varieties, noting they could withstand climate change and needed little fertilizer before farmers were "tricked" into believing that GM seeds would boost yields

News: Official news source of Communist Party of Vietnam reports Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development proposes cutting nearly 70 percent of business rules, including requirements concerning animal feed and GM food, in government effort to make nationâ€™s business climate friendlier

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian wire service ANSA reports libertarian farmer Giorgio Fidenato acquitted of charge of violating ban on planting GMO corn in Udine Court, follows September 2017 European Court of Justice ruling providing interpretation of EU regulation

News release: EuropaBio reacts to outcomes of GRACE, G-TwYST and GMO90+ research projects, calls on EU to eliminate unnecessary animal testing, reinstate science in GMO safety assessments, arguing mandatory studies do not add safety or build trust

News: The Scottish Farmer gets reaction from Rothamsted Research's senior plant geneticist to European Court of Justice's "landmark opinion" on definition of GM organisms; Professor Nigel Harford says opinion could break deadlock of legislative barriers to crop biotechnology on continent

Commentary: Editorial for Spain's Libertad Digital hopes EU Court of Justice will make ruling consistent with Advocate General Bobek's opinion that products of new breeding techniques are exempt from GMO regulation, highlights USDA's recent statement

News: EU Food Law subscription site reports Poland's President Andrzej Duda signs county's amended bill on microorganisms and GMOs, paving way for its implementation

Campaign: German NGO Aktion Agrar calls on supporters to sign petition calling on federal and state ag ministers to develop ag policies allowing farmers to switch to environmentally friendly animal

husbandry, decries destruction of rainforest for feed production

Commentary: Writing in Italian news source, Navdanya activist promotes FAO symposium promoting agroecology, says society is in urgent need of shift away from industrial ag model promoting heavy use of agro-toxins to feed the world

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (IDEC) discredits Senate Environment Committee's approval of relaxed GMO labeling measures, arguing only two senators were present for the vote; urges supporters to contact senators in support of labeling

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on Senate Environment Committee's approval of proposal to modify GMO labeling requirements, removing mandated "T" symbol, proposed by Sen. Cidinho Santos, who argued there is no evidence of damage to human health

Commentary: Greenpeace Mexico legal campaigner Maria Colin writes for Mexico Ambiental, praises civil society efforts for successfully preventing fast track approval of General Biodiversity Law, now required to go through full consultation

Commentary: Union of Scientists Committed to Society members write in La Jornada, claim GM crops do not increase yields, while pesticides used on them harm environment and human health; adds study shows glyphosate create weed resistance to herbicides, claims WHO designates glyphosate as carcinogen

Commentary: Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology posts statement on FAO's agroecology meeting, warns effort should not involve "conventional international organizations" that distort agroecology with sustainable intensification, but should instead focus on peasant farmers

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 - April 18, 2018
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9 04:46 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from India's central government noting that it was reviewing a recent court decision on seed patents in light of setting seed prices.

- *Press Trust of India* and the *Financial Express* reported on a statement from India's secretary of agriculture, who said the government was reviewing a Delhi High Court decision invalidating Monsanto's patents on some cottonseed varieties. Agriculture secretary S K Pattanayak said the government was likely to determine next week whether to remove Monsanto's trait fees on cottonseeds. **See more**
- European researchers working under the GM Plants Two-Year Safety Testing (G-TwYST) project, which attempted to recreate a rat feeding study that found harmful effects from GM maize, have released draft findings showing no indicators of harm during a two-year examination. German activist group Testbiotech, writing before the complete study has been made publicly available, claimed that the methodology was flawed. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Andrew Porterfield of Genetic Literacy Project examines how AquaBounty's GE salmon remains caught in Congressional "sausage grinder," in spite of being ready for market, highlights AquaBounty's frustrations

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization's Connor McKoy amplifies Wall Street Journal article, makes case that gene editing on the continuum of plant breeding; suggests next big hurdle will be consumer acceptance in face of fear-mongering by activists

Commentary: Medium runs GMO Answers piece debunking The Non-GMO Project's #NonGMOChallenge that urges shoppers to look for their label in grocery stores; points out initiative promotes spread of myths about GMOs, applauds consumers using social media to set record straight

News release: Center for Biological Diversity report highlights 10 most iconic endangered species in Mexico, with report attributing monarch butterfly threats to GM agriculture, pesticides

Report: Friends of the Earth publishes issue brief on GMO animal replacement products, argues that new lab-grown synbio meat products such as Impossible Burger have not been sufficiently tested for health and environmental safety, promotes organic meat

Commentary: Friends of the Earth deputy director writing for Food Tank urges Congress to reject GOP farm bill that would increase risks to health, environment by boosting ag practices based on pesticides, GM foods, antibiotics, hormones; says bill significantly weakens small-scale farmers and organic ag

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on recent March for Science, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology's Rose Gidado highlighted goal of increasing public understanding, and to emphasize role of science, especially biotech, in national development

News: Kenya's The Star reports on Kenya Biodiversity Coalition's opposition to use of GM maize as solution to fall armyworm invasion, claiming that the pest does not spare GM crops, and that the armyworm was introduced as part of strategy to push GMOs in Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports Ag Ministry will make decision on whether or not to scrap Monsanto's trait fee on Bt cotton next week, after reviewing Delhi High Court ruling which invalidated Monsanto's patents, according to Ag Secretary S K Pattanayak

News: Press Trust of India reports on Ag Secretary S K Pattanayak's statement that the ministry will evaluate recent Delhi High Court ruling dismissing Monsanto's request for patent enforcement on Bt cotton, before deciding next course of action

News: Pakistan Observer reports experts predict global market for GM seeds to grow 10 percent in coming years, based on projected demand, which shows GM crops widely adopted since introduction; article cites ISAAA report on worldwide biotech crop market value

More Asia items

Europe

Report: EU's GM Plants Two Year Safety Testing project (G-TwYST) publishes draft conclusions and recommendations on design, conduct, interpretation and analysis of animal feeding studies for GMO risk assessment, includes efforts to ensure stakeholder engagement, transparency and data accessibility

Commentary: Testbiotech criticizes recent EU-funded two-year rat feeding trial using glyphosate-tolerant GM maize which found no evidence of adverse effects, argues the feeding trial is of limited value in assessing overall risks of GMOs

News: Germany's Suddeutsche Zeitung reports on launch of "Agrarwende-Forum" initiative by anti-GMO activist Heiner Schwab, with goal of offering a monthly round table to counteract farmer dependency on large multinational corporations

News: Politico Pro reports U.K. environment and ag secretary tells parliamentary audit committee country may stray from precautionary principle post Brexit in areas ripe for innovation

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance voices support of encouraging ecological re-localization of protein crops within the EU, pointing to negative health and environmental impacts of GM soy cultivation in South America, calls for shift to agroecology

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies review in Agricultural Systems demonstrating potential risks of Rothamsted Research's GM omega-3 camelina to terrestrial invertebrates, including butterflies and honeybees, highlights authors' call for further investigation

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Primeira Hora reports on Senate Environment Committee's passage of new GMO labeling bill, removing mandatory "T" symbol; Sen. Cidinho Santos notes consumers' right to information is preserved, perhaps even more clearly

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on Environment Court's ruling in favor of Whangarei District Council's (WDC) case against precautionary language in anti-GMO policy, allowing for deletion of the word "plants" and creating a total GMO ban

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 17, 2018
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:04:05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an activist news conference in Mexico's Yucatan calling on political candidates to reject GM crops.

- In a news conference organized by Greenpeace Mexico, civil society groups from the Yucatan Peninsula called on gubernatorial candidates to take positions to preserve indigenous farming communities. The groups highlighted the importance of beekeeping in the region and urged politicians to uphold a GMO moratorium. **See more**
- The European Parliament endorsed a non-binding report calling for an increased focus on developing domestic plant protein sources. A *Politico* report highlighted lawmakers' concerns about the region's reliance on imports and highlighted environmental concerns about soy production in South America leading to deforestation. The environment committee approved the report in March. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Chicago Tribune freelancer reviews confusion over variety of labels on products claiming to be made with "greener," ethical practices, cites "USDA Organic" label certifying pesticide-free, non-GMO, amplifies USDA-accredited company representatives recommending use of EWG Dirty Dozen list

News: AgWeek reports farmers expected to receive notices by mid-May on ways to file for Syngenta Viptera settlement; attorney involved with case urges farmers to respond quickly; final court approval due in November

Commentary: Alli Willis of Non-GMO Project's Living Non-GMO blog explains importance of rigorous testing for non-GMO verification, highlights examples of GMO crop contamination, summarizes Non-GMO Project's testing process

Commentary: Nolan Peterson of Heritage Foundation's Daily Signal examines ways in which Ukraine stands to gain from U.S.-China trade war, China's increased tariffs on U.S. corn opens door for more Ukrainian corn exports, already favored by China as non-GMO

Announcement: Center for Food Safety promotes Food Revolution Summit featuring NGO's director Andrew Kimbrell (April 28-May 6)

News release: UC Davis announces renewal of College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' World Food Center, with mission to mobilize research, educational and outreach resources to promote innovative, sustainable and equitable food systems

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Editorial for Kenya's The Star notes there is a solution to fall armyworm crisis in allowing trials on GM maize, demonstrates that gov't has a choice of letting farmers lose half their crops or allowing GM maize

Review: Journal of Pest Science publishes analysis from international team of crop researchers concluding negligible risk of Bt cowpea on non-target organisms in West Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Philippine Network of Food Security Programmes, Inc. (PNFSP) announces recent meeting with partner NGOs from several Asia-Pacific countries, to raise concerns and issues in each country regarding opposition to the Golden Rice Project

Audio: English-language Korean news podcast features University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Professor Emeritus Bruce Chassy and UC Berkeley's Claire Kremen in discussion of health and environmental aspects of GMOs, in context of Korea's labeling debate

News: India's Food and Beverage News reports on Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) draft food labeling regulations, includes requirement that food business operators (FBOs) label all products containing at least five percent GE ingredients

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico Pro EU reports on Parliament's support of EU protein crop plan, critics of current reliance on South American soybean imports argue it threatens EU food security and contributes to deforestation, MEPs called for allowing soy on organic farms

Commentary: German news columnist says Greens' GMO opposition is unprincipled protest of Monsanto vs science-backed stance, argues Greens would more effectively annoy Monsanto by backing GM plants that reduce pesticide applications

Commentary: Karen Shevina of German NGO Aktion Agrar, summarizes recent political market breakfast meeting, promotes presentation of "Stop Bayer Monsanto" initiative, notes large mergers can be broken up if enough people protest

Interview: European Seed interviews Allen and Overy attorney Geert Glas on his analysis of EU Advocate General Bobek's opinion on regulating new breeding techniques, Glas notes Bobek clearly rejected NGOs' allegations of invalidity of certain GMO Directive articles

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Eric Meunier criticizes USDA's decision not to regulate Calyxt's new GM high-fiber wheat variety, argues Calyxt has not demonstrated lack of risk, voices concern about its possible entry into the EU

Interview: Spanish organic brand Navarra Ecologica interviews University of Lleida soil science professor Jose Ramon Olarieta Alberdi, he believes that GMOs are unnecessary and unsafe, claims they exist for large companies to control the seed supply

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Greenpeace Mexico sends letter to Yucatan gubernatorial candidates, calls for policies to support organic farming and beekeeping, and traditional indigenous knowledge, highlights importance of GMO-free honey for exports

News: Mexico's Diario De Yucatan reports on letter from civil organizations, including Greenpeace, to

Yucatan gubernatorial candidates, calling for polices to support organic farming, beekeeping and indigenous knowledge, and Transgenic-Free Zones

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes for Mexico's La Jornada, notes all of ETC Group's predictions regarding major agribusiness mergers have been fulfilled, criticizes Francisco Bolivar Zapata's support of GMOs at recent UNAM debate

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on mobilizations in observation of International Day of Peasant Struggle, organized by La Via Campesina, activist leader Diego Monton spoke out against gov'ts and companies violating rights of peasants and indigenous peoples

Announcement: Brazilian Senate news agency announces bill to remove mandatory GMO labeling using "T" symbol is approved by Environment Committee, Sen. Cidinho Santos, who supported the bill, noted consumers will still be provided with information

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on research by Phillips McDougall suggesting GMO development takes average 13 years of study and R$400 million, Brazilian agronomist Hugo Molinari notes there have not been any negative health effects after 20 years in Brazil

More Latin America items

Oceania

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

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Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 9:04 55 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 Brazil's Senate environment committee plans to review legislation updating the country's GMO labeling guidelines. In India, seed technology firms launched a new trade group to advocate for technology-supportive policies.

- In Brazil, the Senate Committee on the Environment (CMA) is scheduled to review and potentially vote Tuesday on legislation that would loosen some of the country's guidance on labeling genetically modified ingredients. Specifically, the measure would remove the mandatory "T" symbol on foods produced with transgenic ingredients. The measure had been rejected in the Committee on Social Affairs, where one senator claimed that removing it would put organic producers at a disadvantage in the marketplace. **See more**
- India news outlets reported that agricultural technology firms Bayer, Monsanto, DowDuPont and Syngenta had teamed up with local firms to form a new trade body called the Alliance for Agri Innovation (AAI). In a statement, the group said it will promote the development of plant breeding innovations in India. The move comes after a Delhi High Court ruled last week that Monsanto seed patents were invalid under the country's legal code. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Care2 amplifies EWG Dirty Dozen, Clean Fifteen lists, notes EWG singles out produce commonly grown with GE methods, highlights recommendation of purchasing organic produce

Commentary: Thuy Bercher writes for Odyssey, lists six reasons why GMOs are better than organic, points to safety, improved nutrition and reduced pesticide use, in addition to environmental benefits

Commentary: CropLife's Eric Sfiligoj muses on potential disappearance of Monsanto name from agricultural landscape after merger with Bayer completed, points out anti-ag activists may miss it most because Monsanto name was staple of their protests

News: Bloomberg reports on developments in microbiome treatments as means to improve crop yields, Indigo CEO wants to reshape ag industry structure, product would compete with chemicals companies and distributors

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Anthony Daka of Uganda's Daily Monitor speaks out against spread of misinformation about GMOs, noting there is no evidence of health risks, blames delay in Biosafety Bill passage on anti-GMO activism and lack of science communication

News: Uganda's The Observer profiles Uganda Biotechnology Consortium chairman Erostus Nsubuga,

highlights his innovative use of tissue culture to improve disease-resistance in bananas, he notes those opposed to biosafety bill don't understand the science

News: Kenya's The Star reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation technical operations director Emmanuel Okogbenin's assertion that GM maize is best method for controlling fall armyworm invasion, he explained efforts to combat misinformation

News: Kenya news site highlights comments by USAid's fall armyworm taskforce coordinator made at recent press conference raising concerns about the pest for agriculture, impact on food security, noting resistance to usual pesticides makes armyworm more dangerous

News: Nigeria's Vanguard reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency CEO Abayomi Oguntunde's speech at recent 2018 March for Science event, he voiced concern about decreasing farming population, called on Nigeria to embrace ag biotech

News: Agribusiness Global report examines potential food security threats associated with fall armyworm infestations in Africa; notes lifting GM bans in region could help control pests' impact

News release: Government of Ghana announces recent seminar on GMOs hosted by National Biosafety Authority, NBA's Gloria Naa Dzama Addico emphasized importance of biotech for reducing use of land and chemicals, Food Sovereignty Ghana's Edwin Kweku Andoh Baffour voiced opposition to the technology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports on formation of Alliance for Agri Innovation (AAI) amid patent and royalty dispute between Monsanto and Nuziveedu Seeds, with goal of promoting new ag technologies; Bayer, Dow, DuPont, Monsanto and Syngenta are members

Commentary: The Hindu's R. Keerthana examines GM crop debate in India, highlights several benefits of the technology, but claims that very little testing has been done on GM food, and that GMOs could possibly cause allergies or antibiotic resistance

Commentary: Indian food news site HungryForever examines difficulty consumers face when trying to avoid GMOs or harmful chemicals, notes draft Food Safety and Standards for GMO labeling are currently open for public comment

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch news outlet reports Jeffrey Smith will give lecture on health risks of GMOs on April 21 in Garderen; Smith is invited by GMO-free supplement supplier Beyuna, whose recently commissioned study found that 50 percent of Dutch consumers are afraid of GMOs

News: U.K.'s AgriCensus reports global demand for non-GM soybeans is expected to rise, as consumers seek verification for food production sustainability, especially in the EU, according to Dutch bank Rabobank in its Grain & Oilsseds update

Interview: Slow Food promotes establishment of national Slow Food network in Macedonia, talks to newly elected President Nikolce Nikolovski of Slow Food Makedonia, who says group wants to become the nation's leading NGO on food issues

News: The Guardian reports on Convention on Biological Diversity Executive Secretary Cristiana Pasca Palmer's call to make at least half of the world more nature-friendly by 2050 to ensure humanity's well-being, highlights threats posed by ag activities

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian environment news site reports Senate Environment Committee will vote on bill to end mandatory GMO labeling on April 17, highlights opposition from Sen. Vanessa Grazziotin, who argues expanding GMOs will lead to increased agrochemical use

Commentary: French anti-biotechnology group Inf'OGM examines ongoing legal dispute over royalties on Monsanto's Intacta RR2 PRO soybean variety in Brazil, notes it demonstrates tumultuous relationship between Monsanto and South American farmers

News: Argentina's Infobae reports on local ag technology company DonMario and its application of latest biotech innovations, highlighting goal of adding to knowledge, moving beyond transgenics, to develop the best possible seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Radio New Zealand reports on Principal Environment Court Judge Laurie Newhook's statement questioning Federated Farmers' continued attempts to block local councils' GMO bans, Soil and Health Association criticized the group's tactics

More Oceania items

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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 16, 2018
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 4 04:42 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Each year, the organic industry-funded Environmental Working Group helps scare up new business for its financial backers by releasing its "Dirty Dozen" list warning about the supposed dangers of pesticide residues on produce.

Along with a coordinated response from the Alliance for Food and Farming - which featured a blog with a dozen reasons to eat fruits and vegetables and a guest column in Food Safety News - we highlight a series of other criticisms from Steve Savage, dietitian Toby Amidor, Stephan Neidenbach and Andrew Porterfield.

Other non-"Dirty Dozen" pieces include the SciMoms' Anastasia Bodnar looking into the increased price of organic-labeled products and Mark Lynas highlighting a study that question whether organic farming really helps the environment. Plus, an ETH Zurich scientist warns that efforts to ban glyphosate and neonics could have unwanted impacts on food production and greenhouse gas emissions.

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In This Issue

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What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Environmental Working Group

The U.S.-based Environmental Working Group released its annual "Dirty Dozen" guide to pesticides in produce last week, prompting media coverage and

Stories Worth Sharing

Steve Savage: Organic industry-funded "Dirty Dozen" list is an "egregious, science-free misrepresentation" of government data

Toby Amidor: "Dirty Dozen" not based on sound science, does disservice to consumers

Newsweek: International Food Information Council warns EWG puts "unnecessary fear" in consumers about healthy foods

Stephan Neidenbach: A "Dirty Dozen" list of organic foods linked to safety recalls and foodborne illnesses

Andrew Porterfield: American Academy of Pediatrics should reconsider alignment with "anti-science" Environmental Working Group

Mark Lynas: New study questions whether organic farming is better for the environment

Anastasia Bodnar: "No need for concern about pesticide residues" regardless of product's labels

Robert Finger: Efforts to ban neonics and glyphosate could have wider implications, including reduced food production and quality

response from critics.

EWG is well-known as a promoter of organic products and issuing numerous other reports complaining about "hidden" pesticides in foods.

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

EWG's bottom-line advice is consistently that consumers should buy organic whenever possible. It derives financial support and board leadership for its activities, in part, from large organic industry donors.

Click HERE to learn more about EWG.

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Alison Van Eenennaam: GMO technology could help those struggling daily with starvation

Siang Hee Tan: Activists engaged in "shameful" behavior by opposing potentially life-changing Golden Rice

Eliot Bakker: Court hearings show activists have "blown out of proportion" IARC's cancer claims about glyphosate

Business Insider: Controversial CRISPR technology could prevent starvation

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What's Trending?

European Commission proposes increased pesticide risk assessment transparency following glyphosate controversy

India high court rejects Monsanto request to enforce patent on Bollgard II cotton seeds

European Commission formally schedules neonic ban vote for April 27; Germany and Austria declare support

French public health agency research suggests agriculture, pesticides linked to Parkinson's disease

Proposed Mexico biodiversity law sent back to legislative committee

Calendar highlights

April 16-20	April 16-18	April 17
International Symposium on Pollination	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America meeting	International Day of Peasant Struggle
April 21-29	**April 23-24**	**April 23-24**
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements leadership course in Ghana	International Conference on Food Technology and Biotechnology	International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agroecology

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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 commentary on the Mexican Green Party sending the biodiversity law back to committee. Thousands gathered in Washington, D.C., and around the world for the annual March for Science.

- Media, NGOs and other stakeholders commented on Mexico's biodiversity law after the Ecologist Green Party of Mexico withdrew the proposal, sending it back to committee. Commenters said the law would allow corporations to privatize the country's genetic resources and that it is unconstitutional because it bypasses consultations with indigenous peoples' groups. **See more**
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science noted thousands gathered in Washington for the international March for Science on Saturday. Earlier, Alex Berezow wrote for the American Council on Science and Health, arguing the event is "going nowhere" because it fails to take stances on issues such as biotechnology and nuclear power. Henry I. Miller wrote in a *Washington Examiner* op-ed that the march is too partisan. **See more**
- German media reported that during the Green Party conference, party chairmen Annalena Baerbock and Robert Habeck led members to question policies such as those opposing genetic engineering. Party members pointed out the technology could help fight hunger in some parts of the world. The science editor for the German publication *Die Tageszeitung* urged Green Party members "give up their basic rejection of GM food." **See more**

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

North America

News: North Carolina University professor speaking at gene editing conference hails CRISPR technology as having potential to feed world while enabling greater food safety, providing sustainability, but warns public perceptions, ethical concerns remain major issues

Commentary: ACSH's Alex Berezow discusses second annual March for Science set for April 14, suggests it's a movement going nowhere, largely because backers fail to properly address their issues, points to their lack of public position on GMO safety, overwhelmingly supported by science

Commentary: GMWatch says Folta's estranged wife accuses him of attempting to hide earnings from corporations; Folta says he was reimbursed for expenses only

Interview: St. Louis Business Journal interviews Danforth Plant Science Center's new crop improvement director, says his goal is to get regulatory approval for improved crops such as GM cassava to help countries battle hunger and malnutrition

Commentary: EcoWatch columnist says India court decision preventing Monsanto from claiming Bt cotton patents may prompt company to leave country

Commentary: The Conversation runs piece by two Michigan State University researchers amplifying its latest Food Literacy and Engagement Poll, showing affluent Americans tend to overestimate their

knowledge about health and nutrition, are more likely to be influenced by misinformation and pseudoscience about GE crops

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports more than 1 million smallholder farmers will get discounted seeds, cropping technology under deal between Syngenta and Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System; Syngenta pledges to work toward improving farmers' productivity up to 50 percent

News: Nigerian news source reports HOMEF condemns government's plan to introduce GM crops, warns there's no guarantee of environmental and health safety of GM cotton and cowpea to be introduced by end of 2018, calls on government to learn from other countries that have used caution regarding GMOs

Video: Kenyan news source speculates 50 percent of harvests likely to be affected by armyworm infestations

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Manila Times writer notes China could respond to U.S. tariffs by raising taxes on GMOs imported, keep U.S. crops stuck in Chinese approval process as its GMO sector catches up

News: Press Trust of India reports Federation of Seed Industry of India statement indicates Dehli High Court's decision against enforcing Monsanto's Bt cotton seed patent could hurt agricultural investment in India

News: Indian news site reports farm activists warn Andhra Pradesh state govt. about lax regulation of cotton seed sales, which leads to illegal GM cotton sales; says large number of seed producers sell Bt cotton seed using misleading claims

More Asia items

Europe

News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports Germany's Green Party to open debate on its stance on various policies including genetic engineering

News: Feed Navigator reports on EU Commission's proposal on solutions for boosting transparency of EFSA risk assessments, highlights reactions from Corporate Europe Observatory, European Consumer Organization (BEUC), EuropaBio and EFSA

Commentary: University of Copenhagen researcher says parliamentary debates on GM foods ignored public concerns about perceived unnaturalness, adds that misrepresentation undermines trust in government

Commentary: Global Justice Now director Nick Dearden writes for The Guardian, warns about potential negative impacts of a U.S.-U.K. trade deal post-Brexit, pointing to U.S. efforts to reduce U.K. restrictions on pesticides, GMOs and animal hormones

More Europe items

Latin America

News: La Jornada reports Green Ecologist Party of Mexico withdraws biodiversity law due to claims it would allow corporations to privatize country's genetic inheritance, including traditional knowledge of indigenous people

Commentary: Mexican science foundation posts researchers arguments over health, environmental safety of transgenics; notes one researcher claims transgenic advocates ignore complexity of nature, influences such as environment on genetic modifications

News release: Brazilian Senate reports senators to consider on April 17 ending mandatory labels on GMO food products; notes senator favoring label rollback cites no reported human health risks

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Soil and Health Association of New Zealand submits comments on NBTs to FSANZ, opposes use of genetic modification and new gene editing techniques in food production

News release: GE Free NZ notes Stop Golden Rice International Campaign conference in Philippines claimed FSANZ approval of Golden Rice would negatively impact Asian farmers due to trade issues; says FSANZ has not provided evidence that supports Golden Rice safety

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 media coverage of a National Autonomous University of Mexico debate on genetically modified organisms. In India, analysis of a court decision on cotton patents continued.

- Local media outlets reported on a debate about genetically modified organisms and agriculture, hosted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Coverage from *La Jornada* highlighted some researchers' claims that transgenic crops contaminate local varieties and contribute to pollution. *Notimex* reporting on the debate quoted researcher Rosaura Ruiz, who said that irreconcilable positions were common in science and that more research was required. The events associated with the debate continue through April 13. **See more**
- A Delhi High Court decision rejecting Monsanto's patents on Bt cotton continued to generate commentary today, with analysis in *Financial Express* and *Business Insider India* noting the negative implications for agricultural research and *investment*. A report in *The Hindu* noted that seed companies were divided, with some arguing that the measure "kills" innovation and others claiming it protects farmers. **See more**
- *Radio New Zealand* reported that Federated Farmers plans to challenge a GMO moratorium established by Hastings District Council, despite the group's failure to overturn similar regulations in other districts. The report quoted Federated Farmers national president Katie Milne, who argued that the district had attempted to pre-empt the national framework regulating GM crops. **See more**

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North America

News: Associated Press reports organic farming advocacy group creates new food label that excludes hydroponic farming, CAFOs; notes action comes in response to National Organic Standard Board opposing proposal to block hydroponics, aquaponics from the USDA's organic certification program

Commentary: Steven Novella says ecomodernism bases environmental views on science, views GMOs as important part of farming's future, while environmentalists generally view science and technology as problematic

Commentary: March Against Monsanto reports activist Mila de Mier drowned in Washington D.C. hotel pool, was in area to oppose GM mosquito use in the Florida Keys; claims suspicious circumstances surrounding her death

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Isaac Ongu writes for Uganda's New Vision, says parliamentary committee biosafety bill proposal would be "indirect ban on GMOs," threatening to imprison those who plant GMOs within 200 meters of non-GMO crops, making biotech use impossible for smallholders

News: Ugandan news site reports MPs oppose GMO introduction, claiming it will give power to feed Ugandans to multinational companies and would "enslave Ugandans" to white men

News release: Convention on Biological Diversity's Biosafety Clearing-House recaps Uganda's first National BCH Training workshop held in March; participants included members of Uganda National Council for Science and Technology currently involved in GMO research, Confined Field Trials of some GM crops

News: Namibian news site reports country will soon establish GMOs safe to use locally and to export; says Namibia eventually will develop drought-resistant crops and animals

News: Kenya news site reports USAID estimates up to 50 percent of maize crop could be destroyed by fall armyworm, while ag ministry says there is no reliable data on extent of manifestation, status report to be released soon; officials discuss solutions, pesticide options

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports Delhi High Court rejects Monsanto's plea to protect its Bt cotton seed patent, court says company is protected only under Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act; seed producers say their stance vindicated

Commentary: Dilsher Dhillon of Business Insider India analyzes implications of Delhi High Court decision invalidating Monsanto's patents on Bt cotton, highlights criticisms of Monsanto's business practices, notes the ruling may discourage investments in India

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes writes for India's Financial Express, criticizes Delhi High Court's ruling that Mahyco Monsanto Biotech cannot patent its Bt cotton technologies, argues the move will further undermine confidence of ag technology investors

News: India news sites report Icrisat and Corteva partnership has goal to produce improved crops using technology such as CRISPR, says farmers in Indian state of Telangana and others will benefit from the cutting edge technology

Commentary: President emeritus of Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Marshall M. Bouton, begins new blog series, "Cultivating Tomorrow: Indian Agriculture Challenged," examines India's agrarian crisis, calls for new approaches and policies as bold as the Green Revolution

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Spanish pro-ag NGO Fundacion Antama praises EU Commission's proposal for improving confidence and transparency in risk assessment in the food chain, amplifies response by EuropaBio General Secretary John Brennan, hoping to restart debate

News release: European farmers and agri-cooperative groups COPA and COGENA applaud EU's attempts to make risk assessment transparent, but want science-based framework that promotes innovation

News: Germany's Top Agrar reports on EU Commission's proposal to improve transparency in risk assessments related to food production, highlights criticism from groups like Greenpeace, Joachim Rukwied, President of German Farmers' Association welcomes it

Commentary: Officer of development NGO Hivos East Africa posts blog touting conclusion of UN FAO's International Agroecology Symposium that current agricultural system should be replaced by agroecology, praising partner IIED for their Zambian Food Change Lab

Commentary: Dutch ag news source Boerderij posts blog by pig farmer arguing VLOG feed leads to lower yields, more expensive food; questions whether that means better pig farming and points out

VLOG is German association with goal of driving demand for GMO-free foods in German market

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on recent debate on GMOs at Faculty of Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Bolivar Zapata and Javier Flores defended the technology, while Maria Elena Alvarez-Buylla Roces and Julio Munoz pointed to risks

News: Notimex reports on recent GMO debate at Faculty of Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico; following the debate, academic Rosaura Ruiz described the different positions on GMOs as "irreconcilable"

Commentary: Manuel Valencia Castro writes editorial for Mexico's El Siglo, provides background for General Biodiversity Law in context of Convention on Biological Diversity's Cartagena and Nagoya protocols, examines implications for use of genetic resources

Commentary: Mexico's El Financiero runs op-ed by economist discussing presidential candidate's proposal to suspend purchase of U.S. corn, seek food self-sufficiency, pointing out U.S. production costs much lower because of use of GM seeds, predicting proposed move would lead to higher costs

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Radio New Zealand reports on Federated Farmers' plans to challenge Hastings District Council's GM-free status, in spite of failure of similar challenges in other districts, notes district rules ignore national framework on GMOs

Commentary: Blogger for New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science examines Federated Farmers' legal challenge of Hastings District Council's GM-free status; re-emphasizes previous advice to scientists to watch for local council legislation

News: The West Australian reports state ag department rejects proposed compensation mechanism for financial losses due to GM crop contamination, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development also argues against mandatory farming practices

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 a court in India had revoked Monsanto's patent on genetically modified cotton varieties. A U.S. science group reported that long-term efforts to combat citrus greening will likely require biotechnology.

- *Bloomberg* and *Press Trust of India* reported that, in a sweeping decision, the Delhi High Court revoked Monsanto's patent on Bollgard and Bollgard II cotton varieties. The court further added that seeds, plants and animals can't be patented under Indian law. Responding to the news, the National Seed Association of India said it may approach the Competition Commission of India to recoup the costs paid to Monsanto. Monsanto can appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. **See more**
- A report from the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine sounded a cautious note on the country's efforts to fight citrus greening (or Huanglongbing), emphasizing that a "breakthrough" solution was unlikely. The group noted that short-term resources are required to keep the disease at bay while longer-term solutions are likely to involve gene editing. Accordingly, the group said, growers should begin public outreach on the issue. **See more**
- The European Commission released a proposal to help improve the transparency of risk assessments in food safety, including those for pesticides and genetically modified foods. Several news outlets highlighted the example set by Bayer, which releases redacted safety studies on its website. Greenpeace and other activists criticized the proposal, warning that it still relied on industry-funded and industry-conducted studies. **See more**

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North America

Report: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine makes available download, paperback copies of its consensus study report, "A Review of the Citrus Greening Research and Development Efforts Supported by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation"

News: Growing Produce posts article from editor of Florida Grower citing new report by National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that finds single breakthrough discovery for managing citrus greening is unlikely; report says long-term solutions expected to use gene modification

News: Politico Pro - New report from NAS shows research initiative on citrus greening disease in Florida has found no breakthrough discovery since 2009 to control disease; long-term solutions likely to include GE technologies, but panel recommends research on whether consumers would accept GM citrus

More North America items

Africa

Report: Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition analysis claims current Africa policies push peasant farmers to adopt commercial seeds that deprive communities of autonomy, increase production

costs, threaten biodiversity

News release: Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition report cites Burkina Faso Bt cotton as example corporate interests turning peasants into passive recipients of seeds, agrochemicals, victims of an exacerbated debt cycle

News: Ghana News Agency reports on USAID Bureau of Food Security Fall Armyworm Taskforce Policy and Engagement Coordinator Regina Eddy's statement that the pest has come to stay in Africa, calling on governments to develop Integrated Pest Management plans

News: Kenya news site reports USAid task force coordinator warns maize-producing countries in Africa could incur huge losses from fall armyworm, notes chemical and organic pesticides have proved effective, offers other potential solutions

News: Kenya's The Star reports National Environment Management Authority will accept public comments on its environmental impact assessment for proposed Bt cotton field trials until Friday, April 13, NEMA's Margaret Njuki noted every comment will be considered

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports on Delhi High Court's dismissal of Monsanto's plea to enforce a patent on its Bt cotton seeds, upholding previous ruling that seed companies will pay Monsanto a government-set trait fee

News: BloombergQuint reports on Delhi High Court division bench's ruling that Monsanto does not have a patent on Bt cotton seed varieties, the court granted Monsanto a three-month window to apply for registration under the Plant Varieties Act

News: Bloomberg reports Delhi High Court rules Monsanto can't own patent on GM cotton seeds in India; Monsanto lawyer says company may challenge decision in India Supreme Court

News: DNA India reports on Rajasthan ag department's authorization of sale of Bt cotton seed this season, in spite of ag minister Prabhu Lal Saini's opposition to GM mustard, and his claims that Bt cotton causes impotence

News release: Korea's Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice announces upcoming event on April 12 to present petition with over 200,000 signatures demanding stricter GMO labeling standards and ban on GM foods in schools

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico reports EU Commission proposes legislation obliging agri-chemical companies to publicly release their product safety studies, noting decision follows public outrage on secrecy of glyphosate studies, alleged Monsanto ghostwriting

Commentary: France's Ecole de Guerre Economique member argues Bayer website publicly releasing product safety studies with redactions may serve more as PR tactic to combat criticism of glyphosate, GMOs, than a sincere gesture of transparency

News: Agence France-Presse reports on "walk for environmental health" from Fos-sur-mer to Paris between May 1 and June 30, where organizers, including Generations Futures and Friends of the Earth, will call for action against pollution, "junk food" and toxic products

Commentary: French pro-ag news site Alerte Environnement criticizes upcoming "march for environmental health," finds the organizing group Citizens, Health, Environment is a front group backed by Green MEP Michele Rivasi

News: U.K. newspaper covers Norfolk farmers workshop to review Defra proposals for agricultural policies post-Brexit, highlights investments in agricultural technologies; notes consultation closes May 8

Commentary: German GE information site Transparenz Gentechnik examines retraction of Nature Methods study which claimed to demonstrate off-target mutations in CRISPR mice, highlights USDA statement on gene editing, and pending EU Court decision

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's The Left Daily promotes debate on GMO foods being held April 11 through 13 at National Autonomous University of Mexico, with series of round tables organized by Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Sciences and Humanities

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity announces Panama's Technical Secretariat of the National Biosafety Commission for Genetically Modified Organisms (STCNB) will receive nominations for Civil Society representatives through May 4

Commentary: Nicaragua's Seed Alliance Identity promotes campaign against transgenics developed by nation's producers and agroecological producers, particularly against "glyphosate corn," with objective of disclosing crop's risk, promoting advantages of criollo and aciollada seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science blogger highlights new legislation that could strengthen powers of local authorities to determine how GM research is handled; Labour Party has said it will maintain status quo of new GM techniques requiring EPA approval for use

More Oceania items

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included media reports that the U.S. Justice Department had approved Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. German Green Party politicians announced an upcoming meeting to reassess the party's policies, including proposed revisions to the group's stance on genetic modification.

- International media outlets amplified a *Wall Street Journal* report claiming that the U.S. Justice Department had approved Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, following some concessions on digital agriculture assets and seeds. Several reports highlighted objections from Food & Water Watch, which claimed that the company's "extreme control" would lead to price gouging. **See more**
- Leaders of Germany's Greens issued a statement announcing a two-year effort to redefine the party's positions on several issues. The announcement noted that the current party platform was 16 years old and called for a "fourth phase" of the Greens. Among potential changes, the statement noted that it was time to reassess whether there were appropriate uses of genetic modification to adapt to climate change. *Der Spiegel* and other news outlets noted that the campaign would launch Friday and Saturday with a conference in Berlin. **See more**
- In Mexico, the Chamber of Deputies continued to review a proposed General Law on Biodiversity. The political coordination board announced that consultations on the bill were ongoing, quoting environment commission Chairman Arturo Álvarez Angli. A statement from a Party of the Democratic Revolution politician warned that consultations with indigenous groups were a necessity to reach consensus on the measure. **See more**

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North America

News: Wall Street Journal reports on U.S. Justice Department's decision to allow Bayer to acquire Monsanto, after the companies agreed to sell additional assets, Monsanto's shares closed 6.2 percent higher on Monday, following WSJ's initial reporting

News release: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins issues statement following U.S. Department of Justice's approval of Bayer-Monsanto deal, voices disappointment, reiterates commitment to promoting organic regenerative ag

Commentary: Common Dreams staff writer examines recent reports that Bayer-Monsanto "merger from hell" is approved by U.S. Justice Department, highlights concerns raised by Food & Water Watch's Wenonah Hauter and Friends of the Earth's Jason Davidson

Commentary: Bill Gates writes for Foreign Affairs, examines ways in which CRISPR can transform global development, highlighting applications to combat malaria and make more resilient and nutritious crops, calls for regulatory harmonization

Commentary: NPR's Dan Charles reports regenerative agriculture movement takes root as farmers, food-ag companies see healthy soil cultivation as way to improve food, reduce carbon emissions, market products

Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas Media posts YouTube video explaining why foods derived from mutagenesis should be seen as "genetically modified," even when labeled organic; says GMO is an umbrella term, can apply to traditionally bred or GE organisms

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by Marc Brazeau of Food and Farm Discussion Lab as first in series of articles on U.S. biotech regulations and potential reform; Brazeau outlines patchwork U.S. regulatory system for GE crops and animals, argues some system aspects make sense

Commentary: Organic Authority reacts to Italian meta-analysis finding GMOs aren't dangerous, have benefits, lists three reasons to ignore such claims; piece suggests GMOs encourage use of herbicides, contribute to lack of biodiversity, and warns too much remains unknown about them

More North America items

Africa

News release: Nigeria National Biosafety Management Agency responds to illegal GMO imports by issue 7-day ultimatum to GM seed importers to formalize dealings or risk being shut down

Interview: Nigerian Tribune interviews National Biosafety Management Agency Director General Rufus Ebegba on seven-day ultimatum for GM seed and grain importers, he points to prior information sessions for importers, notes they must have products certified

News: Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology claims GM seeds would prevent local seeds from germinating, forcing farmers buy outside seeds; grow food for the country; adds that long term health impacts are also likely

News release: Nigerian NGO Health of Mother Earth Foundation criticizes National Biotechnology Development Agency's announcement of plans to commercialize Bt cowpea and Bt cotton, and National Biosafety Management Agency's handling of illegal GM imports

News release: La Via Campesina promotes International Day of Peasants' Struggles to be observed April 17, calls on member organizations and supporters to coordinate actions of resistance globally against Free Trade Agreements, criminalization of social struggles, urges defense of indigenous seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Korea Times reports hundreds of farmers, activists demonstrate in Seoul to demand GMOs be listed on food labels, citing concerns GMOs could hurt human health; protest supports petition calling on president to revise country's GMO regulation to meet international standards

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: German Green Party announces plans to develop new policy program by 2020, while maintaining opposition to GM food modifications, they indicate openness to "certain new technologies" to maintain food supplies amid climate change

News: Germany's Der Spiegel reports on Green party's new policy document to usher in a "fourth phase" of the party, chairpersons Annalena Baerbock and Robert Habeck call for reviewing position on GE, noting it could help produce more food amid climate change

Review: University of Goettingen researchers publish review of literature on sustainability of organic ag in Annual Review of Resource Economics, they find that upscaling organic ag would lead to additional loss of natural habitats and increased output prices

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science's blog, amplifies University of

Goettingen researchers' publication challenging common belief that organic ag is better for the environment than conventional, highlights recommendation for integration

News: France's Mediapart reports on concerns that free trade agreement between EU and Mercosur countries could include provisions to increase cooperation on GMOs (subscription required)

News release: Confederation Paysanne voices skepticism about France federal organic program budget, calls on government to address NGO concerns by beginning of announced consultation

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Notimex reports on Chamber of Deputies' Political Coordination Board's (Jucopo) efforts to reach consensus on General Biodiversity Law, amid divergent opinions, according to Environment and Natural Resources Commission chairman Arturo Alvarez Angli

Announcement: Mexico's Chamber of Deputies announces PRD vice-coordinator Jesus Zambrano Grijalva's warning that consultation with indigenous communities on General Biodiversity Law is necessary, citing risk that it could otherwise be declared unconstitutional by Supreme Court

News: Mexico's Cambio Digital reports on Morena local deputy Maria del Rocio Perez Perez's call for revisions to General Biodiversity Law, warning that it currently creates a vacuum that could allow private companies to exploit natural areas

Commentary: Writing for a Mexican news source, National Autonomous University of Mexico ecologist says Mexico does not need transgenics in piece criticizing agribusiness for pushing science and innovation as a way to boost profits vs improve society

Interview: Colombia's Portafolio talks to Greg Ibach, USDA undersecretary of marketing and regulation, about agency's recent statement that it won't regulate products of gene-editing technology; he discusses USDA-financed project in Colombia to use GE technology to reduce cocoa plant absorption of cadmium

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 new commentary published in *The CRISPR Journal* criticizing proposed U.S. regulations on gene-edited animals. Kenyan officials announced plants to approve Bt cotton field trials by May.

- *The CRISPR Journal* promoted a new commentary from prominent U.S. scientist Alison Van Eenennaam, who criticized the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on gene-edited animals. Van Eenennaam noted that the genetic changes introduced through gene-editing techniques could be achieved through traditional breeding programs and questioned the need for "burdensome" regulations on gene-edited livestock. **See more**
- Kenya's *The Daily Star* quoted an official from the National Environment Management Authority on the government's expected approval of nine GM cotton field trial sites by May. The official noted that the government is currently reviewing public comments on the proposal; the comment period closes April 23. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: Alison Van Eenennaam writes opinion article for The CRISPR Journal, points out flaws in FDA's proposed regulation of gene edited animals as animal drugs, argues the framework is neither proportional to product risk nor agnostic to modification technique

News release: The CRISPR Journal announces publication of article by UC Davis geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam which demonstrates why burdensome gene editing regulations on animals threaten food supply sustainability

News: California Ag Today reports on UC Davis geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam's assessment of difficulties faced by science communicators in trying to reach anti-GMO consumers and emotion-based arguments, she recommends Food Evolution documentary

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield raises concerns about American Academy of Pediatrics' alignment with Environmental Working Group's organic messaging, noting joint efforts in questioning EPA's approval chlorpyrifos, promoting organic foods over conventional ones

Commentary: Forbes energy, environment and economy columnist Robert Rapier examines Rethink Ethanol's call for changes in U.S. ethanol mandates, highlights link between increased GM corn and soybean production and monarch butterfly declines

Commentary: Alternet runs op-ed by founder of Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance touting poll finding 93 percent of farmers surveyed oppose Bayer-Monsanto merger, think it will hurt independent farmers, communities; 75 percent surveyed say higher prices for new seed varieties not offset by productivity

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya's The Star reports National Environment Management Authority to OK performance trials for GM cotton by May, agency waiting for feedback from public before it can give approval; public commenting on environmental impact assessment for proposed trials at nine sites

News: Zambian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Authority Registrar Lackson Tonga's clarification that there is no GM-involved activity or entity in the country, noting the only possibility of entry would be from neighboring Malawi

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) issues alert over influx of illegal GM products, NBMA Director General Rufus Ebegba gives GM seed importers and dealers a seven-day ultimatum to obtain permits

More Africa items

Asia

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Asia during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K. farming news outlet reports U.K. scientists welcome USDA's statement announcing that it will not regulate crops produced via gene-editing, hoping it will set a precedent for EU regulation

News release: Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture (SEAE) promotes free download of its study, "Agroecological practices of adaptation to climate change," part of its Adapta Agroecologia project, aiming to push adaptation of agriculture to climate change through agroecological production

Commentary: French blogger Seppi amplifies Risk-Monger David Zaruk piece appluading Dutch farmer's successful court challenge of an organic lobbying organization's claims that conventional farming harms human health, environment

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican politician Javier Herrera Borunda writes for Contacto Urbano, voicing support for the General Law of Biodiversity, highlights the draft process, including involvement of Commissions on Indigenous Affairs and Climate Change

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Australian reports on announcement by Tasmania and South Australia gov'ts of plans to review GM moratoriums in the states, Primary Producers SA supports removal of the moratorium, Tasmania's Dairy Council welcomes a review amid diverse views

Commentary: New Zealand science blogger Grant Jacobs notes Australian and New Zealand citizens can still make submissions regarding regulation of new food varieties, advocates a product-based approach to risk assessment

Commentary: Mandy Sacher of Australia's MammaMia advises readers on interpreting nutrition labels and finding "hidden nasties," promotes her new book, she notes GMOs are not labeled in Australia, advises readers to avoid processed food and buy "Non-GMO"

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 9, 2018
Date: Monday, April 9, 2018 4:37 55 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes features a series of articles raising questions about the reasons behind certain regulations on food, agriculture and chemicals around the world.

The examinations of laws that are scientifically lacking include Hamish Grant of the Vanessa Grant Trust reviewing Kenya's ban on GMOs, Sara Chodosh of *Popular Science* disputing California's Proposition 65 and weed scientist Buddhi Marambe criticizing Sri Lanka's ban of glyphosate. Also, Val Giddings of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation describes why the U.S. leaving certain gene-edited plants unregulated is the right move.

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: Beyond Pesticides

Presentations are expected from U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam, atrazine researcher Tyrone Hayes and California bee researcher James Nieh during Beyond Pesticides' National Pesticide Forum this week in Irvine, California.

The forum, with the theme

Stories Worth Sharing

Val Giddings: USDA statement should help prevent gene editing from being "smothered in its cradle" due to irrational fears

Hamish Grant: Agencies should explain reasons for Kenya blanket ban on GM crops that is "not supported by science"

Popular Science: California placing cancer warnings on everything from coffee to glyphosate "defeats the whole point"

Science Codex: Organic industry, John Fagan pushing regenerative agriculture while "dooming the developing world to starvation"

Chuck Dinerstein: Activists wrong to aim same criticisms at CRISPR as GMOs

Terry Daynard: Complete elimination of pesticides neither laudable nor realistic

Andrew Porterfield: Activist with no entomology background wrote report blaming dicamba for monarch butterfly decline

Buddhi Marambe: Sri Lanka glyphosate ban a "disastrous" policy based purely on speculation

Alex Berezow: Turn focus to factors likely to cause autism, not pesticides

"Organic Neighborhoods," is to include sessions on GM crops and pesticides, pollinator health, endocrine disruptors, farmworker health and other topics.

It's the 36th annual event sponsored by Beyond Pesticides, a strong opponent of GMOs and conventional crop agriculture, and a promoter of organic systems.

Click HERE to learn more about Beyond Pesticides.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Ryan Tipps: "Well Fed" documentary provides important conversation about value of GMOs

Stephan Neidenbach: YouTube's termination of Natural News channel a "public service to the entire planet"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

With U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt under fire, environmental groups question his pesticide policy

Indian activist Vandana Shiva to begin U.S. speaking tour this week; stops include New Jersey, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York

Tasmania, South Australia to review moratoriums on GM crops

Kenyan farmers seek government help to fight armyworm scourge

European Commission informs NGOs vote on neonic ban will come in May

Calendar highlights

April 11-13	April 11	April 11
World Congress on Freedom of Science	Royal Society Te Aparangi gene editing workshop	Le Monde meeting on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and "Monsanto Papers"
April 12	**April 13-14**	**April 16-20**
Vandana Shiva opens U.S. speaking tour with environmental lecture at College of New Jersey	Beyond Pesticides National Pesticide Forum	International Symposium on Pollination

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
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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 groups campaigning against Mexico's biodiversity law and the Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN) hosting a news conference to oppose Bt cotton and gene drive usage in Burkina Faso.

- Mexican media reported political parties, Chamber of Deputies groups, state councils and activists oppose the country's proposed biodiversity law. Opponents said the law violates the legislative process and indigenous groups' rights, threatens biodiversity and the environment, and encourages commercial exploitation. **See more**
- During a COPAGEN news conference, the NGO's officials announced they oppose farmer requests to reinstate Bt cotton cultivation in Burkina Faso. The group also announced its opposition to a project that would use GM mosquitoes to help prevent the spread of malaria. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Cornell University's Alliance for Science examines recent history of cotton production in Burkina Faso, highlights devastating impact on farmer income, pest infestation following phaseout of Bt cotton, notes ongoing development of Bt cowpea, Feb. announcement of potential reintroduction of Bt cotton

Commentary: Wesley Smith of conservative non-profit think tank Discovery Institute writes for National Review, argues that opposition to golden rice is "anti-human," points to evidence of its safety, notes it is currently being developed by the public sector

Commentary: The Cornucopia Institute amplifies Sustainable Food News article about IFOAM study finding no appropriate legal measures to protect breeding and seed production for organic farming against GMO contamination, concluding co-existence in breeding and seed production unfeasible

Commentary: The Western Producer's editorial applauds Health Canada's decision to approve Golden Rice as safe for sale to developing countries, charges Greenpeace and other groups oppose GMOs so much that they're willing to let millions of people suffer from vitamin A deficiency rather than accept science

News release: University of Florida ag science writer promotes effort by its scientists to use genetic engineering to save rare Florida torreya tree, recaps inaugural Torreya Tree of Life event with keynote address by evolutionary biologist E.O. Wilson, whose team found fungal disease killing torreyas, says CRISPR could help fight it

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow blogs about importance of examining beliefs; she says repressive tactics of anti-GMO movement she formerly supported led to period of intensive research that made her a GMO proponent, argues that getting it wrong about ag biotech causes harm

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African social justice NGO member says Kenya's broken food system requires action, rejects suggestions Green Revolution approach would do anything besides further consolidate power into commercial hands

News: Burkina Faso news site reports COPAGEN activists at press conference oppose Bt cotton return, claim cotton production did not decline; group seeks to prevent GM mosquito use in malaria prevention project, claims the country being used as a guinea pig

Commentary: Kenyan farmer writes op-ed in Daily Nation, says science does not support GMO ban, points out GM safety and that it aids food security, says government agencies should give "reasoned scientific explanation" for opposing biotech

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency gives grain importers 7-day notice to certify products; move intended to prevent uncertified GM crops from entering country; news site claims GE products have no consumer benefits but accelerate pesticide use

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports on Uganda Women's Network's (Uwonet) support of President Museveni's decision not to sign biosafety bill, Uwonet executive director Rita Aciro argued it does not favor women, questioned impact on indigenous seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports cotton sowing starts officially April 1 in Punjab but state agriculture department yet to release list of recommended varieties, which includes varieties of hybrid Bt cotton seed also approved by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee; other states have released their lists

Commentary: International Rice Research Institute FAQ page stresses Golden Rice will cost no more than white rice due to donation of technology, terms of licenses, lack of sale limitations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Risk-Monger David Zaruk details successful court challenge by Dutch farmer accusing organic food industry lobbyist of falsifying health, environmental impacts of conventional farming, criticizes organic lobbying tactics of making wild claims without evidence

News: Spanish news source reports several municipalities of Navarra declare GE-free zones, ban use of glyphosate, embrace precautionary principle; University of Lleida professor speaks against need for, safety of transgenic crops

News release: Testbiotech says China study finding glyphosate-resistant plants show high potential for environmental spread affirms still too many unknown GMO risks, criticizes EFSA failure to investigate issue

Commentary: Dutch MEP Bart Staes writing for news site amplifies NGO report on GM soy from South America used for EU animal feed, highlights negative health, environmental impacts from cultivation of soy, criticizes hypocrisy of EU politicians forbidding growth of GM crops while allowing importation

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Parliamentary faction National Regeneration Movement introduces

motion to suspend biodiversity law discussion, claims it violates indigenous peoples' rights, puts greater emphasis on commercial exploitation than environmental protection or biodiversity

News: Panamanian news site reports Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology president says agroecology is "banner of development" for Latin American social movements that aid small farmers left of of "intensive systems"

News release: National University of Colombia highlights presentations during agroecological seminar with researchers refuting claims of "superfoods," GM crops feeding world population, decrying introduction of transgenic seeds that cause loss of native crop varieties, stressing need for government investment in agroecology

News release: Biotechnology Information Council researcher says herbicide-tolerant crops help control spread of invasive species, do not accelerate "superweed" development

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports CSIRO researchers map genome of two bollworms resistant to pesticides and threaten crops globally

News release: Australian biotech group AusBiotech announces release of draft response to FSANZ consultation paper, which announced the agency would not make changes to food code regarding food produced using new gene technologies

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 coverage in the Philippines of the Stop Golden Rice Network's campaign re-launch. International news outlets reported on the sentencing of a man accused of stealing GM rice seed for transportation to China.

- Philippines-based newspapers and TV stations reported on an activist demonstration held Wednesday at the country's Department of Agriculture, where local and international activists protested against plans to field trial the genetically modified Golden Rice. Media outlets also amplified a statement from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), warning that Golden Rice would not cure hunger and could cause health problems. **See more**
- The U.S. sentencing of a researcher convicted of attempting to steal patented GM rice seed lines and smuggle them to China drew international coverage. The scientist, a Chinese national, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on conspiracy and theft charges for stealing from Kansas-based Ventria Bioscience Inc. **See more**
- The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission announced it would hold a public hearing on April 26 to address how China's agricultural policies, including its regulation of biotechnology, affect U.S. economic interests and trade. This is the commission's fifth public hearing. **See more**

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North America

News: Wire services report Chinese scientist sentenced to 10 years for stealing and attempting to smuggle GMO rice into China; Reuters highlights ChemChina takeover of Syngenta as indicative of country's interest in ag biotech

Event: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission announces public hearing to examine China's biotech policies, food security and agricultural trade policies' impact on U.S. firms, farmers, export opportunities

News release: Canada's ETC Group promotes upcoming release in May of four short animated videos that explore themes of food production, diversity, hidden costs and policy solutions addressed in its booklet, "Who Will Feed Us?," which comparing "peasant food web" to industrial agriculture

News: Futurism amplifies USDA's announcement that it won't regulate crops created with GE techniques such as CRISPR, notes that's significant departure from agency's approach to GMOs, explains how GE techniques work, asserts lack of misinformation surrounding GMOs will be good news for consumers

News: Organic Authority amplifies reports of Impossible Foods raising $396M in funding to continue development of plant-based meat substitute made with GE yeast, notes production process leaves significantly smaller environmental footprint than conventional ground beef

News release: Monsanto reports "solid progress" in approval of merger with Bayer, highlights first-half

numbers indicating continued success in seed, pesticide business objectives

More North America items

Africa

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes release of its research report, "Input supply in South Africa's smallholder farmer support programmes;" raises concerns about publicly funded programs supposed to assist smallholder farmers; claims Monsanto benefits from GM maize seed distribution

More Africa items

Asia

News: Manila Times reports more than 100 Filipino farmers and activists from other countries protest against field testing Golden Rice; RESIST! Agri-TNC Network-Philippines spokesperson claims farmers will lose right to choose different seed varieties

News: Philippine TV news site reports angry farmers, other groups protest to oppose Golden Rice outside Philippines' Department of Agriculture, question the product's safety

News: Philippine news site reports some "scientists and farmers" oppose Golden Rice, which "allegedly" would help cure vitamin A deficiency, notes field test data show it is safe for consumption

News: Philippine news site reports Philippines' National Anti-Poverty Commission joins activists opposing IRRI's application to test Golden Rice, claims it will not reduce hunger, cure vitamin A deficiency, and may cause health problems

News: South China Morning Post amplifies Reuters report that Chinese scientist gets 10 years in prison for GM rice theft from research facility

More Asia items

Europe

News release: France's Confederation Paysanne claims BASF marketing "Clearfield" GM rapeseed in France allegedly obtained by mutagenesis, which is exempt from ban on releasing GMOs into environment; NGO says the rapeseed is a GMO because the company uses cell cloning

Commentary: Greenpeace U.K. info site highlights U.S. government report indicating demands for post-Brexit trade deal may involve regulation, approval of GM crops, pesticides; Centre for European Reform analyst suggests U.K. may be better off sticking with EU regulatory approach

News: French TV channel reports trial of 36 Volunteer Reapers in Dijon postponed until Nov. 15 and 16 because of lawyer strike, points out defendants accused of destroying two test plots of GM canola at Dijon Cereals in November 2016; group claims plants weren't evaluated, labeled or clearly called GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Campaign: Citizens Coalition before the LGB promotes Change.org petition to Mexico's Congress of the Union urging it to vote against General Biodiversity Law that would allow country's genetic resources to be used without indigenous consent, citing importance of conserving Mexico's natural resources

News: La Jornada reports that Chamber of Deputies reviewing procedures for voting on General Biodiversity Law; adds that despite public concerns, the vote could proceed on Thursday (April 5)

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Cosmos magazine editor previews future magazine articles examining how gene editing, synbio may help deal with climate change; notes activists oppose even benign products such as Golden Rice

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 protest events on "hidden GMOs" organized by anti-biotechnology activists in Dijon, France. Protests continued against a proposed biodiversity bill in Mexico.

- French media outlets reported on the start of protest events organized by VigilanceOGM 21. The events, which include film screenings and communal meals, were planned in support of nearly 40 activists called to trial for the 2016 vandalism of field of herbicide-tolerant rapeseed. Though the trial was postponed, the activists said the events will continue. Local Green politicians issued a statement of support, adding that European politicians should regulate according to the precautionary principle and stop "all GMOs." **See more**
- Advocacy groups in Mexico continued to organize in opposition to the General Law on Biodiversity. The National Indigenous Network held a news conference, claiming that the law would sell out traditional knowledge and genetic resources. Legislators in Baja California issued a statement criticizing the draft law. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas, writing at Cornell Alliance for Science, amplifies activist conference convened to oppose Golden Rice; notes European government still funds participating NGOs despite criticisms of unscientific campaign

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health finds fault with anti-GMO groups lumping CRISPR-CAS9 techniques with gene introduction; notes scientists believe crop's safety based on end product, not mutagenesis

News: AgNet West reports Monsanto's $125 million investment in gene-editing startup Pairwise aims to be first to offer produce developed using CRISPR in grocery stores within next 10 years, also notes DuPont hopes to release first product with ingredients from CRISPR corn within four years

News: The Packer reports USDA decides plants using gene-editing techniques that don't introduce genes from another species will not be regulated by USDA; decision potentially reduces plant breeders' development costs

News: Agriculture podcast promotes discussion with agricultural consultant about connection between organic movement, non-GMO movement, why many consumers refuse to use GMO products

News: Voice of America reports CRISPR technology can fight plant diseases, increase crop yields; Innovative Genomics Institute director notes food production will need to increase by 70 percent by 2050

More North America items

Africa

News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports professor of microbiology at University of Abuja says biotechnology could transform agricultural sector, contribute to national growth, argues biotech offers new Green Revolution based on crops that provide higher yield, resist diseases, improved nutrient qualities

Commentary: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update profiles Ugandan businessman who calls on ag biotech stakeholders in East Africa to advocate for policies that will let private sector exploit technology, create job opportunities for youth; Erostus Nsubuga founded Agro-Genetic Technologies Limited

News: Burkina Faso news site amplifies story from German audio site that country's producers, researchers believe Bt cotton's high yields, resistance to pests makes its return inevitable, particularly with onset of climate change

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer reports National Anti-Poverty Commission joins regional coalition of farmers, activists from different countries in opposing plans to commercialize golden rice in Philippines, arguing the GMO won't significantly address problems of hunger or vitamin A deficiency in nation

News: India's Qrius reports USDA's statement on gene editing, asks what CRISPR-created food means for India, notes it could open up floodgates for genome editing there, where scientists already using CRISPR to improve banana; report points out it remains to be if CRISPR foods would be labeled in India

Commentary: Columnist for India's Down to Earth argues U.S.-China trade war presents opportunity for India to boost soya bean production, adding India's GM-free soya line offers niche market

More Asia items

Europe

News: France's La Depeche reports on court date delay for Volunteer Reapers who took part in November 2016 destruction of two rapeseed test fields; GMO opponents still using occasion of trial to conduct public actions, film screenings, concert and parade to support Volunteer Reapers

News release: French news source runs release from Green political party EELV calling on public to support Volunteer Reapers of Dijon, mobilize around them, call for use of precautionary principle, suspension of hidden GMOs and for EU to regulate all GMOs, including the hidden ones

News release: Spain Society of Organic Agriculture promotes NGO representative's FAO Agroecology meeting presentation proclaiming agroecology should not include transgenics

Commentary: Association of cities in Italian wine growing regions amplifies independent researcher Tiziano Gomiero's contention that recent study of transgenic maize glosses over risks to human, animal, environmental health

Commentary: Belgium international development NGO outlines how Monsanto's effort to introduce GM cotton into Burkina Faso ended in disaster when market collapsed amid protests organized by Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage

Event: March Against Syngenta promotes march event set for May 19 in front of corporate headquarters to demand fair and organic agriculture free of pesticides and genetic engineering; NGO also promotes petition to Swiss Federal Council and Parliament asking new GE procedures be regulated as GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports National Indigenous Network denounces Chamber of Deputies Environment Committee approval of biodiversity law, at press conference argue law legalizes

exploitation of indigenous resources

News release: Citizens' Coalition against the General Law of Biodiversity promotes press conference publicly denouncing biodiversity law, warning policy violates rights of indigenous communities

News release: Mexico Baja California state congress approve point of agreement calling on federal government to reject biodiversity law, citing concerns it will threaten environment, Mexico national heritage

News: Argentinian news source reports academic to speak before Chamber of Deputies about claims of causal relationship between human disease and use of agrotoxins; meeting to feature debate on issues involving food production, including use of transgenics, to inform draft law on agrochemical use

Commentary: University of Sao Paulo radio program highlights authorization of GM mosquito, noting faculty professor says mosquito is effective but should be part of integrated approach to mosquito population control

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports new CEO takes over Grain Producers South Australia, says she wants to work on national policy; Caroline Rhodes adds that she wants members to understand practical effects of ending South Australia's long-standing GM moratorium

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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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 the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's Second International Agroecology Symposium in Rome, which will continue through Thursday. Australia's Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme kicked off Phase 3 consultations, inviting public comment on the draft findings from its third review.

- The FAO's agroecology meeting today continued to draw activist commentary, with several groups positioning their preferred farming systems as the appropriate response to sustainability concerns in agriculture. ActionAid, for example, called for patents on plants and seeds to be abolished while Friends of the Earth International claimed that agriculture should reinforce smallholder farmer land rights and move away from commodities farming. **See more**
- Australia opened Phase 3 consultations on its Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme, publishing a report on findings developed through the previous phases. The report noted that "future proofing" the scheme would require technical updates and noted the potential for a tiered approach to regulation to more accurately reflect levels of risk. Comments on the draft are open through May 24. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro sends letter to U.S. Government Accountability Office (GOA), requesting examination of regulatory framework surrounding cell-cultured foods, noting potential introduction into the food supply raises important questions

Commentary: American Farm Bureau Federation highlights USDA's announcement it has no plans to regulate plants modified through genome editing, as long as they aren't plant pests or developed using plant pests, notes AFBF working with USDA to signal plant breeders about need for innovative technology

News: Indiana newspaper reports AquaBounty Technologies upgrading defunct Bell Aquaculture fish farm with plans to grow GE salmon for human consumption, which U.S. FDA approved in 2015; AquaBounty's annual report points out anti-GMO activist groups have pressured retailers to boycott GM salmon

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports briefly on recent launch of Stop Golden Rice International campaign by delegates of civil society organizations; notes call to strengthen global campaign against corporate control of agriculture, GMOs and release of golden rice in Asia

Campaign: Korea's Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice announces Campaign for National Petition for Dismissal of GMO Markers and School Meals from April 3-6 at Gyeongsang National University

News: Indian Express reports farmer leader P Ayyakannu's 100-day protest against GM crops arrived in Thanjai, the activist submitted a petition to District Collector A Annadurai claiming that GM crops pose several health risks such as infertility

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: FAO summarizes 2nd International Agroecology Symposium in Rome, highlights FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva's call for transformative change, and belief that agroecology can help improve global food production

Commentary: ActionAid issues call to 'scale-up' and 'scale-out' agroecology, in context of U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology; also call on governments to repeal intellectual property rights rules on seeds

Commentary: Friends of the Earth International touts its report on community forest management and agroecology, argues decision-makers attending UN FAO's meeting on agroecology in Rome must understand that transforming to agroecological system involves more than technical changes to farming

News release: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) promotes its role at FAO International Symposium on Agro-ecology to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, set for April 3 through 5 in Rome; CIRAD will focus on knowledge, training to foster agro-ecological transition

Commentary: IFOAM's "Organic Without Boundaries" blog gives tips for convincing policy-makers to support organic agriculture, such as positioning it as promising high-value market in countries where environmental, health issues low on agenda of political majority, showcasing success stories

Commentary: Former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas writes for New Scientist, compares refusal to accept GMO safety to climate change denial (subscription required)

News release: French NGO promotes walk and picnic to be held April 4 to show support for member of Volunteer Reapers convicted in court of Dijon, urges support for Reapers, calls for halt to GMO field trials in France

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Mexico's Chamber of Deputies announces PRD deputies won't accept that other parties impose General Law of Biodiversity, call it necessary to open dialogue with citizens, specialized groups, indigenous communities

News release: Mexico's National Center for Social Communication (CENCOS) announces representatives of indigenous peoples, groups to hold news conference April 3 to explain opposition to General Law of Biodiversity about to come up for vote in Chamber of Deputies

Audio: Radio France Internationale posts Spanish-language report on Argentina, where NGO Renama working to promote agroecology, notes UN FAO posted report on its official website about Argentinian community that doesn't use agrochemicals or transgenics

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's National Gene Technology Scheme announces it is accepting online submissions for Phase 3 Consultation through May 24

Report: Australia's National Gene Technology Scheme publishes preliminary report on Third Review of the Gene Technology Scheme, summarizes technical findings, regulatory findings, governance findings, social and ethical findings and international context

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 ongoing stakeholder and advocacy response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent statement on products of gene editing.

- A USDA statement outlining why certain gene-editing products would not be regulated by the agency continued to draw commentary today. The American Seed Trade Association welcomed the news, saying that the statement makes official the approach USDA has taken in reviewing recent gene-edited products. Previewing likely advocacy response, conspiracy blogger Jon Rappoport called the decision "criminal" and warned against a wave of new edited foods. **See more**
- Activists in Mexico coordinating under the campaign Coalición Ciudadana ante la Ley General de Biodiversidad previewed a day of protests against the Chamber of Deputies' efforts to progress the country's biodiversity law. A spokesperson for Semilla de Vida warned that the law sold indigenous genetic resources to corporations and said that a petition against the measure had received over 50,000 signatures. In advance of the scheduled vote tomorrow, activists urged protestors to use the social media hashtag #AltoalaLeydeBiodiversidad to voice their concerns. **See more**

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North America

News: AgWired reports American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) welcomes USDA Secretary Perdue's statement regarding oversight of plant products produced via gene editing, includes audio interview with ASTA president and CEO Andy LaVigne

News: The Scientist reports USDA has no plans to regulate plants developed through genome editing, but will continue oversight of transgenic plants; notes no determination of whether gene-edited plants will require labeling

News: The Progressive Farmer amplifies Bloomberg News report USDA secretary has announced gene editing products, advanced breeding technologies will not require same regulatory oversight as gene-transfer technology

Commentary: Anti-GMO blogger Jon Rappoport criticizes USDA Secretary Perdue's announcement that gene edited plants will not be regulated, amplifies concerns raised by GMWatch's Claire Robinson about lack of human health studies

Commentary: Kevin Folta welcomes retraction of study claiming to demonstrate unintended mutations in CRISPR mice, laments that the damage has already done, noting media coverage of the study negatively influenced public perception of gene editing

Commentary: University of Illinois maize breeding and genetics professor Stephen Moose writes opinion piece for local news outlet, promotes upcoming screening of Food Evolution documentary, emphasizes importance of communication about GMOs

News release: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, The Council of Canadians, Ecology Action Centre and Living Oceans Society call on Canadian gov't to halt any further assessments of GE salmon until more steps are taken to improve transparency, including establishment of mandatory labeling

Commentary: Medium op-ed exposes Russian Factor GMO initiative as potential Putin disinformation effort; questions why U.S. and EU collaborators decline to comment and media fails to follow-up

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ugandan science journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, profiles South Sudan refugee Mary Yangi's efforts to support herself by farming maize, highlights her hope for biotech approvals to help combat fall armyworm

Commentary: Ag expert Isaac Ongu writes for Uganda's Daily Monitor, criticizes MP Syda Bbumba's language on GMOs, which she described as 'demonic,' hopes she will use more positive language about bacterial wilt-resistant bananas

News: Ghana News Agency reports anti-GMO CIKOD group advocating to include agroecology curriculum in local schools; notes ongoing programs in Ghana and Burkina Faso funded by Groundswell and Cargill Foundation

News: AgroPages report on Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service's (Kephis) rejection of Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation's (Kalro) application for biotech maize field trials, stalling the process in spite of prior approval from National Biosafety Authority

News: Nigerian newspaper reports security head claims Boko Haram mercenaries hired by G7 countries as part of conspiracy to drive farmers from land so they can be given non-replicating GM seed when resettled, forced into buying GM seed in future

Announcement: African Union Commission issues call for papers for Sixth Congress of African Economists, and will accept submissions through June 30, 2018, with theme of fighting corruption for sustainable transformation; sub-topic includes ag development policy

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Former economics professor at IIM Bengaluru, Bharat Jhunjhunwala, writes for The Hans India, examines ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China, examines increased need for protectionism, highlights Monsanto's IP rights on GM seeds

More Asia items

Europe

News: France's Liberation reports on debate surrounding regulation of products of new breeding techniques, as EU Court of Justice decision is expected in the coming weeks, highlights Corporate Europe Observatory's investigation of lobbying efforts

Commentary: Spanish pro-GMO NGO Fundacion Antama amplifies Royal Society study on British citizens' perceptions of genetic technologies, in general British citizens favor its use to produce cheaper drugs and crop nutrition, and favor a global regulatory framework

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on Citizens Coalition before the General Law of Biodiversity's

announcement of plans to issue pronouncement against the law's approval, Adelita San Vicente of NGO Semilla de Vida noted their petition has gathered over 50,000 signatures

Commentary: Gabriel RC of Mexico's Regeneracion encourages readers to join #AltoLeyBiodiversidad and post a video in opposition to the Biodiversity Law and privatization of natural resources on Twitter

Commentary: Guillermo Marin, a researcher and cultural promoter of the Toltecayotl, amplifies Greenpeace's rejection of Mexico's General Biodiversity Law, highlighting call for consultations with indigenous communities, points to threats to biodiversity

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mayan communities' efforts to preserve native seeds, especially corn, highlights "Feasts of Native Seeds," launched in 2002 to oppose use of non-native seeds

Commentary: GMWatch blames GM soybeans for environmental disaster reported in The Guardian; syndicated story never mentions GM plants in reporting how Argentina's conversion to soybean cultivation has led to rise in water table, appearance of destructive new river

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Farm Online reports on House Liberal member and former grains farmer Jim Chown's recent statement comparing anti-GMO activists to ISIS operatives, pointing to Charles Benbrook's influence in legal dispute over GM contamination

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 2, 2018
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Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Transparency has become the hot topic in food safety.

While CropLife International and the European Crop Protection Association are launching a joint initiative that will give the public greater access to safety studies, regulators in the United States are also focusing on changing their scientific transparency policies -- a subject discussed in this week's newsletter in pieces by Steve Savage and Steve Milloy.

Other pieces highlight the back-and-forth over GMOs in Uganda, new research making endocrine disruption claims and a visit to the U.S. by Indian activist Vandana Shiva.

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: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

IFOAM Executive Director Markus Arbenz will be among the presenters next week at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology in

Stories Worth Sharing

Steve Savage: USDA Pesticide Data Program provides important transparency on food safety that gets twisted by activists

Steve Milloy: U.S. EPA should be praised for moving away from "unaccountable, dodgy science" based on political agendas

Michelle Miller: Wisconsin university will pay Vandana Shiva $20,000 to spread her anti-GMO lies

Isaac Ongu: Opposition to GMOs in Uganda fueled by "threat to organic's profits"

Authors reverse findings from paper claiming CRISPR gene-editing technique could result in unintended mutations

Science 2.0: Activist researcher Barbara Demeneix has "anti-science mentality" that everything is an endocrine disruptor

Kevin Folta: U.S. congressional report spreads "conspiracy nonsense" and "blatant misinformation" about glyphosate

Devang Mehta: I'm quitting GMO research due to "relentless suspicion" of technologies proven to be safe

Chandre Dharnawardana: Sri Lanka ban on paraquat and glyphosate makes poor stay hungry while rich search for "clean food"

Rome. The NGO is touting the three-day symposium as an opportunity to spread its message that there's a "broad consensus that agroecology can be instrumental" in reaching environmental sustainability goals and combating rural poverty.

Last week, IFOAM and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) promoted teir joint report, "Socioeconomic Impacts of GMOs on European agriculture," that claims biotech and organic crops cannot coexist due to the threat of cross-contamination and that banning GM crops is an "efficient strategy."

Click HERE to learn more about IFOAM, which touts more than 1,000 affiliates in 120 countries.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Charles Laverty: California's Prop 65 cancer warnings an example of "bad science driving bad policy"

KNOW GMOs: New study explains "halo effect" of GM crops on nearby non-GM fields

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What's Trending?

U.S. Department of Agriculture clarifies that it will not regulate plants altered using gene editing

Former Socialist ecology minister resigns from French pesticide commission to highlight demand for glyphosate ban

Vote scheduled Tuesday on Mexico's general biodiversity law

Activists mark one-year anniversary of chlorpyrifos ban reversal with campaign against EPA Administrator Pruitt

Stakeholders demand pesticide reductions as April 5 deadline nears for EU Pollinators Initiative

Calendar highlights

April 3-5	April 4	April 5
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition "Our Farms Our Future" conference	CRIIGEN's Christian Velot lectures on endocrine-disrupting chemicals	Tyrone Hayes lecture at San Jose State University
April 7	**April 9-13**	**April 9-14**
Tuffs University annual Food and Nutrition Conference	FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues meets in China

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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 activist and GMO advocate statements on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's earlier announcement that it will not regulate some gene-edited products. A Purdue University study found China could cut U.S. soy exports to the country by up to 71 percent if it retaliates to U.S.-imposed tariffs on Chinese goods.

- Several media, activist and biotech advocate sites commented on the USDA's announcement that it will not regulate gene-edited products that can be produced via conventional breeding methods. GMWatch said the agency is relying on "an inadequate framework to justify looking the other way when it comes to risks posed by new genome-edited products." *Wired* reported that the products may not be subject to labeling requirements, and *MIT Review* called it a big win for the biotech industry but noted there may be complications when it comes to exporting the products. **See more**
- *Politico Pro* reported that a Purdue University study found that U.S. soy exports to China could drop by 71 percent if Beijing imposes trade restrictions in retaliation to U.S. tariffs on its products. The analysis, commissioned by the U.S. Soybean Export Council, noted that about 62 percent of all U.S. soy exports go to China. **See more**

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North America

News: Retraction Watch reports Nature Methods has retracted a 2007 paper suggesting CRISPR-Cas9 may cause widespread collateral damage to the genome; retraction follows expression of concern by the journal shortly after the paper was published

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan criticizes SciBabe for defending chemicals in food, promoting pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, and GMOs, not revealing her funding sources, notes her previous work for American Council on Science and Health and the Genetic Literacy Project

Commentary: CropLife highlights growth of glyphosate-resistant weeds spurring development of dicamba-resistant soybeans, cotton, cites issues in 2017 with off-target damage to amplify ag industry belief of most problems caused by ill-timed spraying, improper use, notes 2018 debut of DowDuPont 2,4-D-resistant crops

Commentary: Site that promotes conspiracy theories lists eight things "everyone should know" about GMOs, cites lack of "unbiased" research, claims scientists "pretty divided" on topic, notes many people want GM foods labeled and concludes jury still out on their safety, effects on health

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins calls for boycott of factory farms, including fish farms, declaring animals, fish fed GM, pesticide-tainted grains, dosed with antibiotics, hormones; Cummins contends farms source of disease, pollution

News: OZY reports DuPont Pioneer, other companies working on CRISPR-edited foods that could come to market as soon as five years from now, quotes researchers saying CRISPR could help grow food

sustainably for world's population, notes anti-GMO groups question possibility of off-target effects

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports members of parliament attending Biennial National Agricultural Biosciences Conference urge speedy passage of country's biosafety bill; former Minister for Energy says GM crops needed to increase agricultural productivity and GDP growth

News: Kenya's Business Daily reports Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis) rejects Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation's (Kalro) application to conduct GM maize field trials, stating authorization is needed from National Environmental Management Authority (Nema)

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: India's Mint runs op-ed by co-founder of genetic testing business touting CRISPR technology's potential for gene editing plants, animals, humans, noting it's already being used to help treat human diseases, predicting it could help lessen famines; he notes study on mice suggesting CRISPR created unintended mutations

Interview: Vietnamese news site interviews ag expert who warns living in rural areas is unsafe due to herbicide-tolerant GMOs and pesticides, says he opposes importing GM seed

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Telangana state government, farmers union launch independent campaigns to discourage use of illegal Bt cotton or Roundup Ready Flex seeds; farmers have been using technology extensively despite absence of permissions in India

Commentary: Dr. Nandita Shah writes for The Hans India, advises readers to avoid eating GM soybeans, points to health risks and negative environmental impact

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO GRAIN claims Asian public "alarmed" by Health Canada, FSANZ approval of Golden Rice, says it will lead to feeding trails with Asian children; says International Rice Research Institute leaving Asian people "in the dark"

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: U.K.'s GMWatch criticizes USDA's statement clarifying it won't regulate plants produced through innovative new breeding techniques, such as genome editing, argues USDA's statements about science "smoke and mirrors," patents on GE plants contradict USDA claim they're indistinguishable from traditionally bred plants

News: Deutsche Welle reports decision to break ties with Monsanto over GM cotton quality concerns angered farmers who enjoyed better yields from company's GM cotton; local firm says country is still open to biotech, hoping to cultivate seeds locally

Commentary: The Conversation runs piece by two English university scientists promoting adoption of agroecological farming to ensure adequate food supply for world, insisting dominant model of large-scale, one-crop intensive farming is failing, causes pollution

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports lawmakers in Chamber of Deputies trying to advance approval of General Law of Biodiversity, notes Citizens' Coalition has criticized bill's provision to privatize country's

genetic resources and knowledge of indigenous peoples

Commentary: Telesur analysis examines how India's neoliberal policies prompting record-breaking farmer suicide rate, farmer uprising, citing cost of Bt technology among causes for farmer economic downfall

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The West Australian news site reports WA minister compares anti-biotech activists to terrorist group ISIS, claims activists fabricated evidence for Steve Marsh contamination lawsuit

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 a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statement clarifying that the agency doesn't regulate some products of new gene-editing technologies.

- In a statement released late Wednesday, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service clarified that it does not regulate products of gene editing when the resulting crop could have been developed through traditional breeding methods. The report specifically noted several types of gene editing that, because they don't involve a plant pest or transgenic method, would not require oversight. The news was amplified on several business and science media sites. **See more**
- GM Freeze, on behalf of 25 other organizations, issued a statement criticizing Rothamsted Research's proposed field trial of a genetically modified camelina variety. The coalition group, which includes Soil Association, GMWatch, GeneWatch and others, claimed that the plants could cross with wild relatives and pass on traits that are dangerous to both the environment and to human health. **See more**
- A Ghanaian news outlet reported that Food Sovereignty Ghana's lawsuit against GM crop commercialization would move forward, following a judge's decision Wednesday that a 2015 ruling had not applied to all aspects of the lawsuit. The court rejected a claim by the Ghana National Association of Farmers & Fisherfolk (GNAFF) seeking to dismiss the suit and awarded damages to Food Sovereignty Ghana. The Human Rights High Court will hear additional arguments on April 13. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: USDA releases details on which plant breeding innovations it has no plans to regulate under biotechnology regulations, including plant varieties with genetic deletions, single base pair substitutions, insertions from compatible plant relatives and complete null segregants

News release: USDA announces Secretary Sonny Perdue's statement clarifying department's oversight of plants produced through innovative new breeding techniques, including genome editing, saying USDA seeks to allow innovation but asserts agency will carry out regulatory responsibilities

Commentary: Washington, D.C., law firm's blog reports remarks by director of U.S. FDA's Center for Food Safety at Future Food-Tech Summit; Susan Mayne highlighted importance of companies developing foods derived from GE plants consulting FDA early in process, working with agency on Nutrition Facts label

Commentary: Pro-GMO investment analyst asks why Monsanto is considered "evil" but DuPont has better public perception despite its involvement in creation of nuclear weapons and "dangerous" pesticides; notes lack of peer-reviewed research finding GMOs harmful

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian radio station reports appeals court dismisses motion for stay in case against commercial release of GM cowpeas and GM rice filed in 2017 by Food Sovereignty Ghana; court sets hearing for April 13 on issues raised by parties to be set down for trial in landmark case concerning biotechnology in Ghana

News: Government-run Botswana Press Agency reports agriculture minister says it's not illegal to import and consume GMOs because no law prevents importation; he says ministry working on Biodiversity Act to be presented to Parliament this year, but until bill is enacted, little can be done to regulate GMO products

Commentary: Uganda's New Vision runs op-ed by director of Tropical Institute of Development Innovations calling for country to approve use of latest technologies, benefit from bioscience, asserting it could generate enough income to finance Uganda's entire budget every year

News: Nigeria's PM News reports on conference on maize production organized by Bayer, Bayer's Temitope Banjo highlighted goal of addressing major problems for maize farmers such as weeds and fall armyworm, noted new products will soon be introduced

More Africa items

Asia

News release: CropLife Asia promotes 2018 general meeting in Singapore, where executive director called innovative technologies of plant science key component of solution to challenge of feeding continent's growing population

More Asia items

Europe

Letter: U.K.'s GM Freeze releases letter sent with 25 other groups asking Defra not to allow Rothamsted Research to hold another open-air field trial of GM camelina, warning genetic modification and resulting novel traits represent unacceptable risk, including to human health

Event: Associazione Luca Coscioni promotes World Congress For Freedom of Scientific Research set for April 11-13 at European Parliament in Brussels, with theme of "Modern agricultural biotechnology calling" for April 12 session; Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU health commissioner, to give keynote address

Commentary: EuropaBio previews meeting of World Congress set for April 11-13 at European Parliament on theme of "Science for Democracy"; event will address issues including genome editing on humans and plants, with specific session April 12 addressing debate on modern agricultural biotechnology

News release: IFOAM EU touts its new study of socioeconomic impacts of GMOs on European agriculture, argues organic and conventional GMO-free sectors need to implement expensive measures to avoid contamination, concludes coexistence in breeding and seed production unfeasible

More Europe items

Latin America

Letters to the editor: Mexico's La Jornada runs letter from group of ethnologists and social anthropologists warning General Law of Biodiversity adds to process of implementing legal framework to favor dispossession of indigenous peoples, would take advantage of traditional genetic resources

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:01 07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included Italian reporting on the March 27 Citizens' Dialogue in Turin with European Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis.

- Italian news outlets reported on the March 27 Citizens' Dialogue with Commissioner Andriukaitis, which focused on health and nutrition. Local reports noted that the Commissioner urged citizens to trust science on controversial issues, including on the safety of GMOs. **See more**
- International activists highlighted several upcoming meetings promoting agroecology, including the Food and Agriculture Organization's Second International Symposium on Agroecology on April 3-5. In a news release, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements noted that stakeholders plan to highlight the "broad consensus" on agroecological methods. CIDSE, an umbrella group for Catholic development agencies, promoted its event on establishing agroecological standards; Spain's Observatorio de Soberanía Alimentaria y Agroecología previewed a late May event in Cordoba. **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: Henry Miller writes for Fox News, reflects on 1987 op-ed for the Wall Street Journal calling for more precise terminology, explains why "GMO" is a meaningless term, highlights problems with over-regulation of biotech

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by Marc Brazeau of Food and Farm Discussion Lab explaining concept of "substantial equivalence," arguing suspicions about patenting of new food products nearly always based on misunderstandings of concept and how patents work

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts blog by author Victor Shorrocks claiming organic farming supporters condemn genetic engineering of food while ignoring mutagenesis, which has played major part in worldwide production of most crop varieties

Commentary: JD Supra runs analysis by attorney from St. Louis law firm warning USDA's forthcoming rules on National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard may impact defenses of consumer fraud lawsuits based on "non-GMO" or "GMO-free" labeling of products

Commentary: Civil Eats cites economic imbalance of corn farmers outspending their earnings due to ag industry monopoly on seeds, pesticides, amplifies European study indicating use of neonic seed treatments unnecessary, notes neonics "firmly established" as cause of bee decline

Commentary: The Hill runs op-ed by three members and supporters of Campaign to STOP GE Trees urging National Academies of Sciences, currently studying potential for biotechnology to address forest health, to reject idea, calling for ban on GE trees on grounds they are unproven and dangerous

Commentary: Garden Island op-ed by activist Gary Hooser recounts experience at human rights film

festival screening of "Poisoning Paradise," says he met with Swiss Parliament, U.N., others who expressed shock that Syngenta exports atrazine, paraquat banned in its home country

News release: Virginia Commonwealth University promotes its April 9 Earth Day event featuring Vandana Shiva speaking, taking part in panel discussion

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: India's The Tribune runs op-ed by Kansas State University professor of plant pathology celebrating career of Norman Borlaug, citing his bond with Punjab and its Green Revolution, amplifying Borlaug's concerns that farmers wouldn't be allowed to reap benefits of biotechnology

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Swiss-based biotech researcher Devang Mehta writes for Massive Science, expresses relief that he will be leaving GMO research following completion of his PhD program; describes negative backlash and challenges in science communication

Commentary: Greenpeace Deutschland promotes its new survey showing most retail chains in Germany favor mandatory, legally binding labeling of meat following Lidl grocery chain's move to label its fresh meat; NGO asserts consumers want to know how animals were kept, says labels should disclose GE feed

News: EurActiv reports new Greenpeace survey suggests number of Germany's major retailers and meat producers favor legally binding label on meat, supporting NGO's push for more customer transparency; survey conducted after German Lidl grocery chain voluntarily stamped all fresh meat with origin labels

Commentary: Science Magazine's Martin Enserink examines launch of new Association for Responsible Research and Innovation in Genome Editing (ARRIGE), allowing various stakeholders to discuss and provide guidance on gene editing

Video: Russia Insight YouTube channel posts video from recent All-Russian Agricultural Forum showing how young scientists from Moscow Timiryazev Academy came up with plan for increasing market share of Russian vegetables that involves cutting certain genes with molecular scissors, without any GMOs

Event: European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) announces April 26 event for launch of EASAC-IAP report on food and nutrition security in Europe; December report preview noted gene editing as a potential area for research

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports Oaxacan state legislature urges national Congress to allow wide consultation with academics, civil society groups, indigenous communities and people before issuing new General Law of Biodiversity

Event: Spain's Observatory of Food Sovereignty and Agroecology promotes seventh International Congress of Agroecology to be held May 30 through June 1 in Cordoba; touts agroecology as system where production, distribution and consumption of food environmentally sound, nutritionally complete

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Western Australia farmer Terry Enright's statement that entry of GM canola onto has fields has not caused any problems, in personal submission to State parliamentary inquiry into possible compensation for GM 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 a new international organic industry effort to encourage organic production in four African countries.

- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements announced that it was targeting Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo, and São Tomé and Principe in its Organic Marketing for Development program. The effort aims to establish organic farming advocacy and education groups in the countries, as well as promote policies "fostering organic market development." **See more**
- In a non-peer reviewed "pre-print" paper, U.S. researchers updated a May 2017 paper with findings that certain gene-editing techniques in mammals did not introduce unintended mutations. Amplifying the study, *Genetic Literacy Project* noted that the updated assessment reverses the group's previous findings that prompted significant controversy and advocacy amplification. **See more**
- A Brazilian news agency noted that African leaders were visiting the region to learn how local agricultural producers were controlling Fall Armyworm. An Embrapa spokesperson noted the pest is not an issue for Brazil because of the country's integrated pest management efforts, including the use of genetically-modified crops. **See more**

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North America

News release: Americans for Farmers and Families, pro-NAFTA food, agriculture coalition begins "Retaliation Hurts Rural Families" project in effort to protect industry from retaliation to Trump's steel, aluminum tariffs

Study: bioRxiv publishes preprint of article by team of U.S. university researchers following up previous publication, finding whole genome sequencing of multiple CRISPR-edited mouse lines suggests no excess mutations; first publication suggested CRISPR editing might introduce unintended mutations

Commentary: The World Food Prize posts Borlaug Blog by 2017 Laureate, Akinwumi Adesina, president of African Development Bank, who touts Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation platform, scaling up bio-fortified crops across continent to fight malnutrition

Commentary: Food Tank announces advocacy efforts to make agroecology "solution" to climate change with U.N.; cites multi-million-dollar funding from AgroEcology Fund to foster political and economic environment in emerging markets to promote practices

Commentary: Joseph Mercola touts regenerative agriculture as next big trend, return to what organic farming originally intended, including protection of biodiversity, rebuilding of topsoil; he calls for boycotts on all GMOs, claims government agencies furthering interests of large biotech companies

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for AgDaily, opposes Vandana Shiva's upcoming speech

at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in April, criticizes her spread of lies and fear about modern farming methods, encourages readers to attend and speak out

Announcement: FDA announces extended deadline for proposed collection of information regarding guidance on consultation procedures for foods derived from new plant varieties, measure requires Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and clearance

More North America items

Africa

News release: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) announces African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) commends its regulatory standard for modern biotech, following recent AATF delegation visit

Interview: Senegal's Le Quotidien talks to president of Senegalese Association of Farmers' Seed Producers, who asserts attendees from eight African countries at Subregional Trade Fair for Peasant Seeds are fighting for legal recognition of peasant seeds

News release: GRAIN posts declaration of Sixth West African Peasant Seed Fair held in March, with participants affirming importance of strengthening peasant seed systems to guarantee their food sovereignty, calling on West African governments to drop support for introduction of GMO seeds

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management researcher Sarthak Gaurav writes for India's Mint, aruges neither gov't nor the markets have been able to help vulnerable farmers, points to increased costs associated with Bt cotton, and health risks of pesticides

News: Alternative news site Citizen Truth examines possible link between Monsanto and number of farmers committing suicide in India, asserts dependence of India's cotton farmers on Monsanto's seeds has changed farming practices, affecting large swath of agricultural sector

News: Agrimoney reports Pakistan makes progress towards updating seed approval, intellectual property regulations to officially allow GM seed planting in 2018; Pakistani farmers view GM crops more favorably than consumers

More Asia items

Europe

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements promotes launch of Organic Markets for Development (OM4D) project in four West African countries, with goal of establishing organic farming and related markets systems that enable smallholder farmers to improve their living conditions

Event: France's Kaizen magazine promotes March 29 conference at Goethe Lyon Institute on theme of "Tomorrow's agriculture: which seeds to feed?", with speakers arguing seeds must remain natural, free, reproducible and transmissible for autonomy of food, peasants

News release: European Coordination Via Campesina promotes events, meetings building toward adoption of UN declaration on rights of peasants, other people working in rural areas, highlights recent and upcoming events, including session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, event in German Parliament

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's EBC Radio reports government agency helping 35 African countries deal with Fall Armyworm through integrated pest management techniques, including use of transgenic products, insecticides, biological insecticides and crop management

Commentary: Slow Food Mexico recaps Regional Forum held in February on food security and sovereignty in Yucatan Peninsula, culminating in Declaration of Merida, with speaker highlighting Corn Collective Lawsuit that led to provisional suspension of permits for planting transgenic corn

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Friends of the Earth Melbourne urges supporters to submit comments to Food Regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand calling for regulation of new GM techniques in animals, plants, microbes, warns of effects on food chain, environment with no safety testing or labeling

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 activist report urging the European Union to reassess its sourcing strategies for animal feed.

- U.S. advocacy group Mighty Earth, coordinating with France Nature Environnement and Sherpa, launched a new report claiming EU animal feed demands are causing significant environmental and health problems in Latin America. Specifically, the groups highlight soy production in Argentina, arguing that glyphosate used on GM soy in the region has harmed farmers and their families in the region. **See more**
- Philippines-based advocacy group MASIPAG urged local regulators not to allow Australia's approval of Golden Rice to affect the country's assessment of the crop. The group claimed that Golden Rice promoters were planning to take advantage of "weak" local regulations and loopholes to get the crop approved. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Financial analysis site Stratfor examines growing competition between the U.S. and China in biotech sector, highlights Chinese acquisition of Syngenta, developments in gene editing, and potential U.S. national security concerns

News: Lansing State Journal reports on Michigan State University professor Alison Bernstein's involvement in "Science Moms" documentary, and her Mommy, PhD blog, to help dispel pseudoscientific claims about GMOs and vaccines

Commentary: Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today amplifies recent survey by Bayer and the National 4-H Council which found that a large percentage of teachers do not teach Agri-Science, argues that agricultural science and tech should be included in STEM curriculum

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides urges readers to tell state AGs to join investigation of Bayer-Monsanto merger, noting risk claims linked to glyphosate, neonics; highlights Friends of the Earth survey suggesting widespread opposition of farmers to merger

More North America items

Africa

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation's (AATF) promotion of hybrid seeds, stating they can boost yields by 20 percent, highlights Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture's funding of Seeds2B project

Commentary: Nigerian ag biotechnologist Abdulrazak Ibrahim writes for Genetic Literacy Project, highlights potential applications of CRISPR in Nigeria, such as reducing populations of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, calls for stakeholders' workshop on CRISPR

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes seed policy paper, "Towards national and regional seed policies in Africa that recognise and support farmer seed systems," to synthesize policy issues emerging from the Centre's research and advocacy work

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer reports on Stop Golden Rice Network's call on gov't to reject "foreign safety stamps" on golden rice, arguing foreign approvals could be a ploy to exploit the Philippines' weak regulations and policy loopholes on GMOs

Commentary: Financial analysis site Stratfor examines growing competition between the U.S. and China in biotech sector, highlights Chinese acquisition of Syngenta, developments in gene editing, and potential U.S. national security concerns

More Asia items

Europe

News: Le Monde reports on investigation by NGO Mighty Earth on negative impacts of GM soybean monocultures in South America, Mighty Earth will make its findings public on March 27, along with NGOs France Nature Environment (FNE) and Sherpa

News: France's RFI reports on NGO Mighty Earth's investigation which found that buying meat in Europe can contribute to deforestation in South America, notes consumers may not know if animal products come from animals given GM feed, due to differing labeling laws

Report: Mighty Earth publishes report, "The Avoidable Crisis," which documents negative environmental impact of South American soybean production to meet EU animal feed needs, highlights negative health impacts of glyphosate use on GM soy

News release: France Nature Environnement (FNE) announces results of new international survey, led by Mighty Earth, demonstrating negative environmental impact and human rights violations associated with South American soybean production for European feed

News: The Times (U.K.) reports on former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas' call on Britain to embrace GMOs post-Brexit, pointing to environmental advantages and safety of GM crops, highlights his arguments against organic production

More Europe items

Latin America

Event: National Autonomous University of Mexico's (UNAM) Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Sciences and Humanities (CEIICH) to host round table debate cycle on GM foods (April 11-13, 2018)

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on University of the Republic's dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Diego Pineiro's recent speech in which he attributed recent growth in ag productivity to use of biotech packages, highlighted issue of royalty payments

News: Brazilian ag news outlet reports on Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) researcher Leandro Vargas' rebuttal to article in journal Agronalysis linking GMOs to herbicide-resistant weeds, he notes problems arise from inappropriate use, not GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the

link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 26, 2018
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 4 00:55 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

From non-GMO labels to the new push for "regenerative organic" certification, what's with all the terminology all over our food packaging?

Hank Campbell and Michelle Miller explore these topics in separate pieces highlighted on this week's newsletter. Campbell uses an old Dr. Seuss tale to explain how the organic labeling is taken to give a product value that it doesn't actually carry. And Miller explains the confusion that comes with warnings about GMOs and products' GMO absence claims.

Other articles touch on the "Poisoning Paradise" film, California's warnings on glyphosate causing cancer, and an organic fungicide that European regulators have found to be more harmful.

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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: Public Eye

The Swiss anti-corporate NGO Public Eye (formerly the Berne Declaration) was in the news recently for sponsoring the viewing of the film "Poisoning Paradise" at a human rights festival in Geneva where it alleged multinational

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Regenerative organic certification another meaningless decoration, like stars for Seuss' Sneetches

Andrew Porterfield: Popular organic fungicide has "more toxic rap sheet than glyphosate"

David Zaruk: "Poisoning Paradise" film crafted by lawyers as "pure jury-bait" for anti-pesticide litigation

Michelle Miller: No need for GMO labels because most food labels are "misleading, wrong, or just a marketing tool"

Gilbert Arap Bor: Biotechnology " innovation can't come soon enough" to deal with food insecurity, turmoil in Kenya

Pierre Petelle: Quebec's "rogue regulations" on pesticides hurt farmers and innovation without protecting the environment

Henry Miller: Russia has many ways of attacking the U.S., including influencing attitutes on GM crops

The Oklahoman: California's Prop 65 slaps cancer warnings "haphazardly on everything in sight"

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology: U.S. regulations

agribusiness giants including Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta were engaged in crimes against humanity for their development and commercialization of toxic GMOs and hormone-disrupting pesticides.

Public Eye, perhaps best known for its annual protests against capitalism at the Davos World Economic Forum, claims to represent progressive Swiss interests in keeping technologies, trade and corporate interests away from the poor in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Click HERE to learn more about Public Eye.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

based on undocumented risks pose "unreasonable barriers" to innovation

Marco Cappato: World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research next month in Brussels will include ag biotech workshop

Video: U.K. crop specialist calls pyrethroid spraying brought on by neonic ban "worst thing for pollinator health"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Union nearing implementation of criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals

Bayer-funded study identifies enzymes that allow bees to process neonics differently, leading to variance in toxicity

World Water Day sparks commentary on pesticide contamination, drought-tolerant crops

French studies find farmland birds in decline; researchers claim correlation to rise of industrial agriculture and neonics

EU regulators approve Bayer purchase of Monsanto, with BASF set to take on some assets

Calendar highlights

March 26-27	March 27	March 28
Garnet Plant Gene Editing Workshop	Forum for the Future of Agriculture (Brussels)	Friends of the Earth Australia Pesticides in Food Forum

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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 ongoing activist and media response to the European Commission's approval of Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. In Mexico, a vote on the country's biodiversity law prompted criticism from food sovereignty groups.

- News outlets offered ongoing analysis of the European Commission's decision approving Bayer's takeover of Monsanto. *Bloomberg View* noted activist opposition to the deal but argued that European regulators were likely seeking to ensure that European companies remained competitive in the global agricultural industry. A *Xinhua* report noted agricultural companies were facing looming challenges from climate change and population growth. Meanwhile, activists with Pesticide Action Network urged U.S. consumers to contact the country's regulators in opposition to the deal. **See more**
- Mexican activists issued a statement criticizing the Green Ecologist Party (PVEM) for allowing a vote to proceed on the country's biodiversity law despite the lack of a quorum. The Campana Nacional Sin Maiz No Hay Pais called the move a "betrayal" of indigenous peoples and warned that the bill's failure to include public consultations was unconstitutional. The bill is scheduled for a broader vote on April 3. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Pesticide Action Network says it's encouraged by U.S. antitrust division's concerns that Bayer-Monsanto deal could hurt competition, following its message campaign to Department of Justice (DoJ), urges supporters to take action

Commentary: Nature editorial emphasizes importance of a nuanced approach to engaging the public on controversial scientific issues, such as gene editing, supports engagement that is "more about consultation and democracy, and less about the marketing of science"

Commentary: Harvard's Sheila Jasanoff and Arizona State University's J. Benjamin Hurlbut write opinion piece for Nature, they call for establishment of a global observatory for gene editing, as an international network of scholars and organizations to support society's values

Study: Food Policy publishes corrected proof of study evaluating price of non-GM food, authors find that if food manufacturers reformulate products with non-GM ingredients, costs to consumers could be substantial

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features "Pandora's Picnic Basket" author Alan McHughen, he believes arguments against GMOs have not changed much over the past 20 years, notes they are based on ideologies rather than science

Commentary: Sierra Club writer promotes new regenerative "beyond organic" label by Rodale as counter to greenwashing and growth of industrial organic; cites Non-GMO project, Certified Humane and other similar labeling schemes to protect "authentic" organic farmers and consumers

News release: Sen. Lisa Murkowski highlights her contributions to recently passed funding bill, including continuation of GE salmon import ban until FDA finalizes labeling guidelines

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Uganda news site profiles Mark Lynas, describes reversal from anti-GMO movement leader to GMO advocate in light of GMO resistance in Uganda; quotes Lynas on benefits of GMOs

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joseph Opoku Gakpo criticizes Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's (PFAG) anti-GMO scare tactics, notes PFAG's statements on GMO safety run counter to stance taken by various respected institutions in Ghana

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Director for Commercialization, Donald Mavindidze's recent statement lamenting lack of political will to use GM technology to help Zimbabwean farmers, he emphasized safety

Study: CIAT, Africa Rice Center researchers suggest blending agroecology, sustainable agricultural intensification approaches may be best way forward, notes differences in farming concepts, genetic engineering roles, land use, soil health, and scale of operation

Commentary: International Center for Tropical Agriculture site reports researchers publish paper that takes middle ground in debate between agroecological or sustainable agricultural intensification

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua News Agency report on Bayer-Monsanto merger amid ag industry challenges including climate change, human population growth notes Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant touting ability of firms to be "innovation drivers" to help farmers face challenges

News: Press Trust of India reports Indian environmental minister says GEAC has not allowed GM soy imports into India; Coalition for a GM-free India had claimed GM soy imported from U.S., Ukraine

More Asia items

Europe

News: French leftist news source reports European Commission approves Bayer-Monsanto merger, creating largest company in world in pesticides, seeds; notes commission considered only economic factors, ignored environmental, public health considerations

Commentary: Bloomberg View columnist cites EC's desire to compete globally to explain EU approval of Bayer-Monsanto merger despite activist complaints

News: Germany's Handelsblatt reports on BASF's emergence as an unlikely beneficiary of Bayer-Monsanto deal, BASF's acquisition of Bayer's divestments will boost its agribusiness by one-third

Report: EU vegetable oil and protein meal industry association, FEDIOL, writes position paper on EU Commission's Protein Plan initiative, argues that while non-GM status is not a criterion for sustainability, EU can provide consumers with more choices in non-GM crops

News: Feed Navigator reports on European Feed Manufacturers Federation's (FEFAC) call on EU Commission to invest in tools quantify impact of policies on protein supply, FEFAC policy advisor Nicolas Martin discusses strategies incorporating crop-based biofuels

Commentary: Study Circle of Agricultural Techniques and other farmer associations write open letter to Belgian Ministers and Members of Parliament, speaking out against spread of misinformation and

demonization of farmers and agriculture

News: Italian ag news outlet reports on recent meeting in Brussels on strategies for improving sustainability and consumer transparency in Italy's wine sector, MEP Paolo De Castro highlighted potential contributions of new breeding techniques

News release: Bund Okologishe Lebensmittelwirtschaft chairman urges new Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture to ban cultivation of GMOs, increase organic farming, emphasize precautionary principle

More Europe items

Latin America

News: La Jornada reports Mexican legislators may be presented biosecurity law on April 3 for voting, despite environmentalist opposition and questions about approval process; notes law could impact GMOs, ancestral knowledge of indigenous people

Commentary: Mexican politician with Party of the Democratic Revolution claims current draft of biodiversity law lacks consensus, clear legal authority, fails to adequately address biopiracy of traditional knowledge; vote scheduled for April 3

News: Mexico's Regeneracion reports on PRI and PVEM parties' approval of General Biodiversity Law without reaching a quorum, PAN deputy Elena Castro argued the move shows desperation, warned it will allow transnational companies to privatize genetic resources

News: Brazilian news outlets report on Federal Justice's order allowing release of Oxitec's GE Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to help reduce populations and therefore spread of disease, highlights National Technical Commission on Biosafety's findings supporting their safety

News: Reuters reports on 20th Federal Court of Justice in Brasilia's authorization for Oxitec's release of GE Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to help combat dengue fever, Federal Judge Renato Borelli ruled it poses no additional risks to humans, animals or environment

Commentary: Brazil's Regional Council of Nutritionists of the 9th Region - Minas Gerais praises Senate Social Affairs Committee's rejection of bill to remove GMO labeling requirements, urges supporters to send messages to Committee on the Environment before its vote

News: Colombian radio news site reports regional council declares area GMO-free site, activists say the move will protect native seeds and prevent environmental damage

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports CropLife Australia CEO Matthew Cossey says consumers should rely on credible sources for information on food safety; NGO Gene Ethics director says country should have GM labeling requirement so people can be informed on what they eat

News: Australian news site amplifies market analyst report commissioned by grain producers which claims South Australia moratorium on GM canola does not impact farmers financially

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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 report on the negative consequences of current biotechnology regulations in agriculture. Nigeria concluded new GM crop field trials, and a European organic group promoted an analysis claiming that GM crop moratoriums protect local farmers from coexistence costs.

- The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) released a new study that pointed to regulatory obstacles as a major barrier to small business and university participation in agricultural innovation. The study reviewed biotechnology regulations for the U.S. and major trading partners, highlighting several problems with the "process-based" regulatory scheme and noting areas for reform. **See more**
- *News Agency of Nigeria* reported that the country had successfully concluded field trials of Bt cotton and cowpea and that the crops were expected on the market by the end of the year. In the article, Rose Gidado of the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) noted that federal and international agency approval would still be required before the crops could be commercialized. **See more**
- A new report from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, developed under its "Keeping GMOs out of food" program, claimed that GMO coexistence with organic crops was not feasible given the costs required to adjust European supply chains to prevent contamination. It argued that maintaining a ban on GMOs in the EU was an "efficient" way to ensure coexistence costs were manageable for small farmers and companies. **See more**
- Pro-biotechnology groups and companies marked the occasion of World Water Day by highlighting biotechnology's potential for developing drought-tolerant crops. **See more**

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North America

Campaign: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology releases paper noting how process-based U.S. regulatory system based on undocumented risks is unreasonable barrier to agricultural innovation, especially for small businesses and universities

Commentary: Drovers amplifies Council for Agricultural Science and Technology issues paper detailing how the process-based U.S. regulatory system stymies innovation in the agricultural sector, providing sparse return on investments

News: Agweek reports University of Maryland study finds planting of Bt corn reduces crop damage, insecticide use in nearby fields of non-GE vegetable crops, brings positive impacts to growers, including organic producers; researchers say safety of Bt corn proven, also effective as pest management strategy

News release: GMO Free U.S.A. announces publication of report pointing out flaws in recent meta analysis demonstrating safety and yield benefits of GM corn, criticizes authors' reliance on industry studies

Commentary: Ohio newspaper's farm columnist amplifies Iowa State University study finding Russians trying to influence U.S. opinion by spreading anti-GMO articles, urges readers who run across anti-GMO information to investigate its source, suggests Russia may be using GMOs as wedge issue between U.S, EU

Commentary: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network notes AquaBounty repaying government grant with 10 percent of GE salmon sales, C-BAN worries that government responsible for regulating the product has stake in its success

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on Country Coordinator, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Rose Gidado's announcement that Nigeria has concluded plans to use biotech to boost ag production and economy, noting Bt Cowpea and Bt Cotton will be on the market by year's end

News: Nigerian news source highlights launch of FAO campaign to address armyworm infestations on farms

Commentary: Kenyan farmer, lecturer says had Kenyan farmers had access to GM crops, it could have avoided suffering, hunger, turmoil associated with recent drought, but government procrastinates in approving GMOs; notes Uganda recently approved the technology, which will help their farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports Maharashtra gov't orders Bt cotton seed firms to submit seed samples for lab testing to obtain sale licenses, in effort to curb sale of illegal varieties on the market

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for The Asian Age, argues a return to indigenous seeds can help end farmer suicides, which she blames on seeds promoted by corporations with intellectual property rights, claims they worsen farmers' debts

Commentary: Independent journalist Pavan Kulkarni writes for Indian news outlet, warns about risk of corporations monopolizing healthcare and agriculture in developing nations, highlights efforts to promote patented seeds in Africa

Commentary: Chinese news site editorial says U.S. provides huge subsidies to soy farmers, giving them an unfair advantage over Chinese soy farmers and breaking WTO rules

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Pro-biotech Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama touts transgenic crops to allow more efficient use of water in agriculture, argues resistance to drought and tolerance to herbicides of transgenic crops allow for greater conservation of water, reduced pesticide pollution of water

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM says EU Commission rejects testing for gene-edited products, but Convention on Biological Diversity may address the issue internationally, but notes group's interim report says LMOs are "not distinguishable from counterparts"

Commentary: Slow Food Europe says European Commision approves Bayer's Monsanto purchase, says decision is surprise "given huge opposition," says concern centers on concentration of world food production by handful of firms

Study: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements research paper claims biotech, organic crop co-existence is "unfeasible" due to costs, threat of cross-contamination, says banning GM

crops is "efficient strategy"

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: Brazilian Senate's news site announces Committee on Social Affairs (CAS) rejects proposed measure to end mandatory GMO labels on food packaging, Senator Vanessa Grazziotin warned that GM foods lead to increased use of harmful pesticides

Commentary: Latin American Coordinator of Field Organizations (CLOC) promotes its plan with La Via Campesina to build Institute of Latin American Agroecology, calls agroecology a way of living to fight and resist capitalism, and to produce food in the healthy territory base of food sovereignty

Commentary: Spain's GRAIN runs lengthy analysis of Mexican research team's findings of transgenes and glyphosate present in processed foods and tortillas made from industrial maize throughout Mexico, claims consumption of GM corn containing glyphosate can have serious health consequences

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports national Competition and Consumer Commission approves Bayer-Monsanto merger in wake of similar green light from EU regulators; ACCC earlier cited concerns deal might lessen competition in supply of weed management systems in Australian canola crops

Letter to the editor: Australian news site posts CropLife CEO commentary, says fear campaigns by activist groups and unscientific regulations prevent agricultural innovations from positively impacting humanity

News release: New Zealand NGO GE Free Northland calls on Northland Regional Council to place precautionary and prohibitive GMO provisions in its new Regional Plan to prevent outdoor GE trials in the region, claims trials threaten other ag and forestry activities

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included international coverage of the European Commission's approval, with conditions, of Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto. In Ghana, a lawsuit challenging GM crop commercialization moved forward.

- The European Commission announced that it has approved Bayer's purchase of Monsanto following months of negotiating over concessions, though final approval remains contingent on an assessment of BASF's purchase of the Bayer seed business. The news was reported across wire services and international media outlets. Activists immediately criticized the decision, with commentary from ETC Group, Friends of the Earth and several Green Party MEPs warning of industry consolidation. **See more**
- Food Sovereignty Ghana announced that its latest lawsuit challenging GM crop approvals in the country would be heard in the Court of Appeal on March 28, with a hearing in the Human Rights High Court scheduled for April 13. Food Sovereignty Ghana previously filed a lawsuit in 2015, which was later dismissed. The group launched its latest lawsuit in November. **See more**
- A Liberal Party victory in South Australia's elections over the weekend has prompted local commentary on whether the region could reassess its moratorium on GM crops. The moratorium is currently in place until 2025, following a Labor Party decision to extend the ban after it was scheduled to expire last year. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Nkechi Isaac recounts recent interview with Nigeria Academy of Science President Mosto Onuoha, highlights his argument that current conventional farming methods are not sufficient to feed the growing population

Commentary: Frank Giles of Growing Produce amplifies news coverage of Iowa State University study on Russian anti-GMO propaganda efforts in the U.S., voices concern that anti-GMO forces are now targeting new breeding techniques like CRISPR

News: Ag Daily managing editor looks at how agriculture will feed U.S. population in year 2050, highlights efforts by agribusinesses to improve sustainability of farming, points out how GE crops lend themselves to no-till practices, notes new meta-analysis showing long-term safety of GMOs

News: Vice reports Canadian government provided 8.2 million dollars in taxpayers' money toward development of AquaBounty's GE salmon that became first GE animal sold for human food; critics call for mandatory labeling of GE fish in Canada, transparency about taxpayer funds supporting private companies

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins solicits funds in advance of World Water Day for campaigns against factory farms with GMO monocultures, use of glyphosate, atrazine, other pesticides

Commentary: WholeFoods magazine reports Natural Products Expo West saw discussion on future of USDA Organic standard, importance of soil health to sustainable agriculture after a recent decision to allow labeling of hydroponically grown crops as organic

Commentary: Common Dreams writer reports environmental, consumer groups voice alarm to EU green light of Bayer-Monsanto deal; SumOfUs pledges to continue opposition fight with U.S. regulators

More North America items

Africa

News release: Ghanaian news source runs notice from Food Sovereignty Ghana that court hearing on its lawsuit against commercialization of GMOs in country set for March 28 at Court of Appeal, with return hearing before Accra Human Rights High Court on April 13

More Africa items

Asia

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service annual GAIN Report on grain and feed in Philippines show country's gains in production largely due to GE seeds, predicts wheat imports, corn production to decline this year but rice production to increase

News release: ISAAA promotes Pocket of Knowledge about concept of substantial equivalence between GM and non-GM crops, how crops are tested, declarations of safety based on this concept by trusted scientific organizations

News release: ISAAA's Crop Biotech Update promotes new book by Purdue Universityâ€™s Jessica Eise and Ken Foster, "How to feed the world?", notes it covers technology among factors that must be addressed to achieve global food security

News: Press Trust of India reports nation's agriculture minister says scientific organic farming to double farmers' income, urges stakeholders to bring about "revolution" in organic farming equal to that of the Green Revolution

More Asia items

Europe

News release: EU Commission announces its approval of Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto under EU Merger Regulation, the Commission must first complete an examination of proposed buyer of Bayer's divestment package, BASF, before the merger proceeds

News: Wire services report on EU's approval of Bayer-Monsanto merger after securing remedies worth over six billion Euros, highlighting Bayer's planned sales of several of its businesses to BASF

News release: Friends of the Earth Europe criticizes EU Commission's approval of Bayer-Monsanto deal, argues the merged company will become the "Facebook of farming," food and farming campaigner Adrian Bebb argued it will hurt farmers and consumers

Commentary: Politico Pro analysts' takeaways on Bayer-Monsanto EU approval notes deal worries policymakers that Bayer motivation to replace glyphosate will thin, leaving BASF to challenge company's seed, pesticide products

News: RT reports Bayer-Monsanto merger wins antitrust approval from EU, prompting criticism from environmental groups alleging Commission ignored the million people calling for a block on the deal

Commentary: German NGO Testbiotech calls Italian meta-analysis published in Nature's Scientific Reports, which found GE maize produced better yields than conventional, "substantially flawed" due to bias in data selection, methodological problems, points to industry involvement

News release: Italy's Luca Coscioni Association promotes World Congress for the Freedom of Scientific Research to take place April 11-13 at European Parliament in Brussels, focusing on theme of "Science for democracy" and interaction between scientific evidence and decision-making

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Editorial in Bolivia's Los Tiempos criticizes gov't for not giving GMOs the attention they deserve, noting they are used in the country in spite of official prohibition, believes it is not right that little is known about negotiations due to public impact

News: Mexico news site reports EU approves Bayer-Monsanto merger, making company 'giant of transgenics'

Commentary: Ecuadorian NGO Observatorio Del Cambio Rural (OCARU) promotes recent launch of La Troja Manaba: School of Political Education and Food Sovereignty, with an alliance of several other groups, to promote agroecology and peasant ag

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports Victoria and Western Australia grain producers are hoping new South Australia government will lift GMO ban, noting liberal party pledged to reevaluate issue if it won

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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 commentary on Health Canada's approval of Golden Rice. Bolivian agricultural producers presented a report on GM crops to consider for cultivation.

- Biotechnology supporters and detractors responded to Health Canada's approval last week of the vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice variety GR2E. In a statement, the International Rice Research Institute noted that this follows approval from Food Standards Australia New Zealand. Canadian anti-biotechnology activist groups Vigilance OGM and Canadian Biotechnology Action Network criticized the agency for using resources to assess the crop even though it is not intended for sale in Canada. **See more**
- Bolivian agricultural producers presented a proposal Monday to President Evo Morales requesting that the government consider approving the cultivation of several key crops. The producers noted that most neighboring countries already cultivate GM varieties and that adoption would level the playing field for the country's agricultural sector. **See more**
- *Agence France-Presse* reported that the European anti-trust regulator is expected to approve Bayer's purchase of Monsanto on Wednesday (March 21). The merger remains controversial, particularly in the EU, with criticisms of the deal today from Italy's 5 Star Movement and German NGO Arbeitsgemeinschaft bauerliche Landwirtschaft. **See more**

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North America

News: Radio Canada International reports on Health Canada's approval of Golden Rice, amplifies Canadian activists' claims of waste and MASIPAG concerns over international approval loopholes

News: AgDaily reports on Health Canada's approval of Golden Rice, after determining that it poses no greater risk to human health than rice varieties currently available on the market, International Rice Research Institute does not intend to sell it in Canada

Commentary: Henry Miller updates a 2017 op-ed on Russian GMO-opposition in light of current events, writing for The Daily Caller, points to Russia's attempts to influence U.S. public opinion in several areas, highlights efforts to discredit U.S. ag and GMOs

Interview: Vox interviews Melinda Gates, who voices excitement about potential use of genetic engineering to help eliminate malaria, highlights Gates Foundation's work to develop drought- and flood-resistant seeds to help mitigate effects of climate change

Commentary: Sustainable innovation consulting firm analyst says gene editing is a useful tool to maximize food yields in a resource-stressed world, says new technologies are worth exploring

News: Bloomberg reports on former U.S. Treasury undersecretary for international affairs Tim Adams' assessment that the U.K. may be stuck waiting for a U.S. trade deal, taking a backseat to NAFTA

renegotiation; Adams also pointed to policy clash on GM crops

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports India's cotton planting area could drop by 12 percent this season as farmers switch to soybeans, highlights increasing challenges of pest damage as pink bollworm develops resistance to GM Bt cotton

News: Reuters reports on Chinese seed firm Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture's announcement of launch of corn seed joint venture with China National Agrochemical Co Ltd, a unit of ChemChina; China is targeting GM corn commercialization by 2020

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports the European Commission is expected to announce approval Weds. (March 21) of Bayer's purchase of Monsanto, notes activist opposition

Interview: Italian environment news site interviews 5 Star Movement MEP Eleonora Evi about plans for environmental policy, Evi reiterates the party's opposition to free trade agreements like CETA, and opposition to GMOs and the Bayer-Monsanto deal

Interview: Italy's Letture interviews attorney Luca Simonetti about his new book, "Science in Court," in which he examines risks when scientific issues such as vaccines or GMOs are handled by the courts and Parliament

News: Politico Pro EU reports on EU Parliament Ag Committee's call on Brussels to boost soybean production to lower reliance on South American imports, they noted any imports should be GMO-free and meet certain social and environmental standards

Commentary: Sebastian Lakner of Georg-August University Gottingen writes for Agricultural and Rural Convention, analyzes new German gov't food and agriculture policies, highlights plans to boost organic farmland, ban GM crops and reduce glyphosate use

Event: Dutch NGO Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment, and Diversity Europe (ASEED Europe) to host discussion (March 23) on GMOs in agriculture and on the difference between 'old' GMOs and new GE techniques, highlighting regulatory issues

News: Dutch news outlet reports on EU court ruling in favor of Testbiotech, the court found that the term "environmental issues" from Aarhus Regulation must be interpreted broadly to include human health risks, EU Commission must reexamine objections to GMO approvals

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivia's La Prensa reports Bolivia imports at least 11 types of GM food in spite of domestic ban on production, importation and commercialization of GMOs, highlights Santa Cruz producers' call on gov't to authorize GM crops to boost production and lower costs

Commentary: Greenpeace Brazil voices opposition to Senate's Social Affairs Committee's likely adoption of Bill 34/2015 to relax GMO labeling standards, removing requirement of the yellow triangle "T" label, argues it violates consumers' right to know

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator issues invitation for public comment on Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan for commercial release of GO Resources' GM safflower varieties with high oleic acid composition, comments must be received by May 15

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 a new GMO labeling campaign in Korea and continued discussion on a EU court decision allowing activists to challenge GMO approvals.

- Last week, activists in Korea held a news conference calling for "full" labeling of foods with GM ingredients, claiming that current mandatory GMO labeling guidelines contain too many exemptions and aren't diligently enforced. The coalition group, which included over 57 organizations, launched a petition to push for stronger GMO labeling laws, the removal of GMOs from school cafeterias and the approval of a "non-GMO" labeling standard. **See more**
- In Europe, commentary on the Testbiotech lawsuit challenging GM crop import approvals continued. *Feed Navigator* reported that the European Commission was assessing its options and had two months to decide whether to file an appeal. French anti-biotechnology group Inf'OGM summarized the opinion, asserting that the decision could address some of the "flaws" in the current approval process. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Blake Hurst of National Review promotes latest advances in genetic engineering such as CRISPR, criticizes current regulatory environment, argues the price and productivity gap between organic and modern ag will only continue to increase

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts op-ed by chief science officer at ag tech firm who argues advances in genetic engineering such as Bt crops will reduce pesticide usage, water pollution, calls for stakeholders to work together, overcome uneasiness about GMOs to realize potential benefits

Commentary: Writing on Medium, Ph.D. student in biological design amplifies Melinda Gates' interview at South by Southwest Conference in Austin, Texas; she touts need for innovation in ag biotechnology, says a GM cereal crop that could fix nitrogen from atmosphere back into soil would be game-changer

Event: Lansing State Journal previews Michigan screening of Science Moms, noting Michigan State University professor featured in film; screening to be followed with panel of film's stars (March 20)

Commentary: ACSH's Hank Campbell writes humorous piece comparing Dr. Seuss story, characters to organic food industry's efforts to claim new benefits, such as Regenerative Organic Certification, charges industry most concerned about its profits, asserts Seuss himself would be shocked by their "food bigotry"

News release: Organic Consumers Association renews call on World Water Day for international boycott of Ben & Jerry's, claims company supports an industrial dairy system responsible for water pollution crisis in Vermont partially due to atrazine, glyphosate, 2,4-D used on GM corn

More North America items

Africa

Campaign: African Centre for Biodiversity launches petition demanding that South African gov't reject Dow's application for approval of a triple-stacked GM maize variety, voices concerns about risks to the environment, and health risks of associated herbicides

Announcement: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency posts public notice of application for permit to conduct confined field trial of GM herbicide-tolerant sobyean, lists display sites where field trials may be viewed by public

Campaign: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa amplifies West African Peasant Seed Committee's declaration calling on regional governments to abandon support for GMO or GE seeds, disallow intellectual property rights on peasant seeds, protect collective rights of peasants over their seeds

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: Friends of the Earth Korea (Korea Federation for Environmental Movement) announces 57 organizations launch petition demanding complete GMO labeling and withdrawal of GM foods from school meals, voices concern about health risks

Campaign: Korean NGOs launch petition demanding full GMO labeling, argues that lack of labeling infringes consumers' right to know, also demands ban on GM food in school meals

News release: Consumers Union of Japan posts report for annual event celebrating country's GMO-Free Zone movement, points out area of country officially registered as GMO-Free has increased, now represents 2 percent of Japanese farmland

Commentary: Coalition for GM Free India criticizes Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for inaction, in spite of its affidavit filed last year with Supreme Court stating that sale of GM food is not permitted due to lack of regulatory framework

News: The Hindu Business Line reports NGO writes letter to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India arguing its recent notification on organic farming would be detrimental to growth of organic farming in country, would deter farmers from making shift to organic farming by mandating certification for most

News: Pakistan's Dawn reports on various efforts to alleviate hunger through biofortification, Ayub Agriculture Research Institute plans to develop iron and zinc-rich wheat varieties, a University of Agriculture, Faisalabad researcher warned it is better to avoid GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

News: Feed Navigator reports EU Commission weighs options in response to EU court decision supporting campaigners right to challenge GMO approvals; Commission has two months to appeal

Commentary: Inf'OGM says EU court decision validating Testbiotech's request for internal review on GMO approvals extends NGOs' rights to GMO reviews, could correct flaws in EU GMO risk assessments

Commentary: Pascal Perri of PNCeconomic writes for France's Institut Sapiens, promotes report criticizing the Precautionary Principle's application in ways that are anti-science and inhibit innovation, lists six recommendations to promote innovation

News: Feed Navigator reports on Agrifirm Group Director of Public and Cooperative Affairs, Ruud Tijssens' assessment about Europe's need to boost feed protein self-sufficiency, he noted continued high demand for non-GM feed increases need for local production

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Writing in Mexican news source, Mexico National Action Party senator says Biodiversity law still needs work, should not be passed in expeditious manner to avoid human rights violations, ecosystem attacks

News release: Brazil's Embrapa announces its scientists have joined startup to develop transgenic sugarcane varieties to control borer, manage crop with glyphosate; project aims to incorporate characteristics of agronomic value into varieties of top commercial importance

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces receipt of application from Nuseed for limited and controlled release of GM canola variety with altered oil content and herbicide resistance

Commentary: Remy Herrera and Lau Kin Chi write for Economic and Political Weekly to promote new book, "The Struggle for Food Sovereignty: Alternative Development and the Renewal of Peasant Societies Today," highlights arguments against GM seeds

More Oceania items

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To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 19, 2018
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 4 04:04 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As activists across Europe plan their annual weeklong attack on pesticides, we open this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter with one science communicator's explanation of why it's important to stand up against such shenanigans.

We also highlight a series of articles on a California judge's decision that cancer warnings are not necessary on glyphosate products and a review of Mark Lynas' new book detailing how and why he turned from an anti-GMO protestor into a biotechnology advocate.

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: ClientEarth

With anti-chemical NGOs pushing to make European hazard-based precautionary principle rules the de facto global regulatory standard, this week we profile the eco-litigaiton organization ClientEarth.

In 2007, ClientEarth was founded in Europe by a Yale-educated Wall Street attorney who wanted

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Anti-science "Poisoning Paradise" event stuffed with trial lawyers' publicity stunts

Joe Schwarcz: No reason to worry about scary-sounding tests that find glyphosate in wine

Cameron English: "Blatant contradiction" by anti-glyphosate activists frustrates scientists seeking to spread good information

Wall Street Journal: Judge overrules "bad science" with decision to block cancer warning labels on glyphosate

David Zaruk: Why is the public so "filled with rage" against corporations that have provided modern way of life?

Lominda Afedraru: Uncertainty surrounding Ugandan biodiversity law provides roadblock to producing biofortified bananas

William Odinga: Workshop encourages scientists to "boldly" defend their work on biotechnology, leave lawmakers no doubt

Dominic Lawson: "Seeds of Science" a gripping account of Mark Lynas' turn from anti-GMO protestor into biotech advocate

Richard Zuber: Judge's ruling against glyphosate cancer labels a victory for scientific integrity and farmers

Joan Conrow: Kenya pyrethrum backers spreading false claims about

to bring U.S. environmental litigation advocacy tools to the the United Kingdom and EU. Since that time, it has hired more than 60 lawyers and formed subsidiary offices in Belgium, France and Poland. It also became a formal U.S. 501c3 to facilitate raising funds from the United States and extended its litigation and lobbying program reach from Europe to Africa and China.

ClientEarth was in the news this week announcing a campaign in partnership with anti-chemical NGOs including Chemical Secretariat and Pesticide Action Network to help accelerate adoption of pending endocrine disrupting chemical criteria and maximum residue limits - which could result in disruptions costing tens of billions of dollars in global agriculture and other trade with the European Union.

Learn more about ClientEarth HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

GM crops

Alex Berezow: Middle school teacher who defends GMOs shows bravery amid harsh cyberbullying

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What's Trending?

Activists publish epidemiology journal article claiming European regulators violated own rules in glyphosate reviews

Court to allow activists to challenge European Commission approval of GM crops

NGOs exert pressure on European Commission to schedule neonic ban vote this month

U.S. approval of Bayer-Monsanto merger hits antitrust snag, expected to take months longer

Canadian comment period on neonics ends today

United Nations' IPBES panel to release global reports on biodiversity, soil health

Calendar highlights

March 20-30	March 20	March 20, 22 and 23
Pesticide Action Week across Europe	IFPRI Global Food Policy Report launch	Michael Antoniou/Claire Robinson Swiss lectures on NBTs (March 20 in Basel, March 22 in Bern, March 23 in Neuchatel)
March 21	**March 21-22**	**March 22**
Rebecca Nesbit lecture - "Save the Honeybee?"	Chicago Council on Global Affairs Global Food Security Symposium	EU Parliament hearing: Impact of endocrine disruptors on public health
March 22-23	**March 25**	**March 26-27**
European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed discusses neonics, EDCs	3rd Biennial National Agricultural Biosciences (NABIO2018) Conference in Uganda	5th Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: Asia

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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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 Mexico's Climate Change Commission opposing the proposed biodiversity law and a Brazilian court declining to stop agricultural activities on a farm in a lawsuit that claims the owners violated the law by planting GM crops and using pesticides indiscriminately.

- Mexico's *La Jornada* reported the Mexican Chamber of Deputies' Climate Change Commission rejected the proposed General Biodiversity Law, saying it needs to include consultations with indigenous groups, environmental NGOs and animal advocates. The proposed law is being supported by Mexico's Green Party. **See more**
- Brazilian media reported that a judge declined a prosecutor's request to stop agricultural activities at a farm partly owned by federal Judge Gilmar Mendes. The farm is in an environmentally protected area, and the prosecutor charges pesticides were used "indiscriminately" and that transgenic crop use is forbidden in the area. However, Judge André Gahyva said there is no provision against GMO or pesticide usage on the farm. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: University of California-Berkeley cell biologist says humans have modified genome since dawn of agriculture via selective breeding; says now biotech offers more precise way to alter genome, has paid off with GM chymosin to make cheese without killing calves, and synthetic meat intended to replace animal agriculture, which harms environment,

Commentary: Joseph Mercola claims university researchers circumvent conflict of interest rules, exchange positive study results for funding, claims Kevin Folta accepted money from Monsanto after he said he didn't take any

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan warns against "wild stampede of new GMOs" that tamper with nature in new, possibly riskier ways, says agrichemical companies have long histories of hiding health risks of products like Agent Orange, chlorpyrifos, atrazine, dicamba

News: Ars Technica amplifies University of Maryland study finding Bt corn also controls pests in vegetable crops planted nearby, while also reducing use of pesticides on those crops; article suggests growers may plant other crops attacked by European corn borer and corn earworm near fields of Bt corn

News: Successful Farming amplifies Iowa State University study finding Russia funded online articles questioning safety of GMOs; researchers say Russian effort possibly intended to hurt U.S. agriculture interests, bolster Russia's position as "ecologically clean alternative" to GE food

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse posts Russian media article claiming that, contrary to Iowa media study findings, Russia is trying to prevent U.S. from "establishing global GMO dictatorship," claims American media do not cover GMOs enough

News: Reuters reports Bayer says progress being made in talks with Russia's competition watchdog FAS about company's planned takeover of Monsanto; Bayer says it has moved toward agreement with FAS to support competitiveness of Russian agriculture, including transfer of technologies

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium secretary writes for Nigerian news site, says GM crops can help meet challenges presented by farming in Nigeria, including climate change, pest attacks, growing population

News: Produce news site reports Ugandan researchers developing vitamin A-enriched, pest- and disease-resistant GM banana prepare to taste test the crop, but notes biosafety bill still under scrutiny

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on study which found that Kenya's top three GMO labs are highly contaminated with disease-causing germs, highlights concerns about the labs' ability to prevent GM material from escaping into the environment

Commentary: Columnist for Zambia Daily Mail, a pharmacist, discusses country's response to CRISPR technology, says there has been rush to condemn it despite its proven results and vast potential to transform medicine, agriculture, points out CRISPR being used in experiments trying to develop drought-resistant crops in East Africa

More Africa items

Asia

Review: Ecological Indicators publishes literature analysis highlighting knowledge suggesting physiology, functional genomics and molecular breeding may help integrating GE and breeding approaches to improve drought tolerance in soybean crop

News: Times of India reports on Coalition for a GM-Free India's complaint filed with Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) demanding urgent action to curb sales of illegal GM food, alleging that certain brands of imported foods are being openly sold

Commentary: India's Free Press Journal reports organic food is more nutritious, better for health and environment; actress Juhi Chawla, brand ambassador for The Women of India Organic Festival, says people who switch to organic never want to touch chemicals again

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on Mark Tester's work using new GE breeding technologies to develop salt-resistant crops at King Abdul Aziz University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, potentially allowing use of sea water in agriculture

Commentary: Indian news site claims food at supermarkets might damage health, notes Coalition for a GM-free India filed complaint that some package food containing GM soy, canola, cottonseed oil being sold in India

More Asia items

Europe

Review: The Times' Dominic Lawson praises Mark Lynas' "Seeds of Science" book, calls Lynas most "morally conscientious person in Britain" for turning from activist opposing and vandalizing GM crops to fervent biotech supporter

News: German news outlet reports on EU court's ruling in favor of Testbiotech, finding that civil society organizations may challenge EU GM crop approvals, acknowledging health concerns can be considered since GMOs are involved in the natural environment

News: The Guardian reports on director of Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Eleanor Rileyâ€™s work with gene-editing to overcome common livestock diseases, Riley notes public opinion on GE animals is improving, highlights environmental and animal welfare benefits

News release: European Food Safety Authority announces recent productive talks with delegation of French ministers, members of the Assemblee nationale and diplomats, regarding ways to strengthen food safety and address consumer concerns

Commentary: French news site amplifies Maryland Bt corn study, notes the crop is resistant to pests and requires less pesticide, is good for the environment, has little impact on biodiversity, but cautions GM safety must take place over long period of time

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site counters claims that GMO corn causes cancer in humans, argues GM technology necessary to feed world because traditional methods will be insufficient, cites sources debunking Seralini study and touts scientific consensus there's no evidence that GMOs cause cancer

News: La Jornada reports Mexico government joins opposition to Biodiversity Law; national biodiversity commission coordinator says bill prioritizes agri, pharma business economic interests ahead protections for indigenous communities

Announcement: Mexico's Climate Change Commission, chaired by deputy Maria de los Angeles Rodriguez Aguirre, approves opinion on General Law of Biodiversity calling for expansion of consultation process, including with indigenous communities

News: Cuba-based Prensa Latina reports judge grants Costa Rican deputy an injunction forcing Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to conduct public consultation on planting GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Murdoch University professor encourages Australia to update GMO definition to account for decades of safe use and increased yields, differentiate them from gene-edited products

News: Australian farming news site reports University of Adelaide research finds consumers believe organic food is healthier, more nutritious, safer than GM food despite scientific evidence to contrary; notes clear, accurate labels incite distrust

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 activist claims that Mexico's environment commission was planning to approve the country's biodiversity law despite criticism from indigenous groups. India's agrarian crisis continued to generate commentary on Bt cotton efficacy in the country.

- Mexico's *La Jornada* reported that the Environment and Natural Resources Commission (Comarnat) was expected to "fast track" the draft General Law on Biodiversity despite criticism from indigenous groups and the Commission on Indigenous Affairs. The Coalición Ciudadana ante la Ley General de Biodiversidad issued a statement criticizing the proposal, adding that the group had filed a formal request for consultation. **See more**
- The farmer march to Mumbai continued to generate reporting on the difficulties facing smallholder farmers in India, with articles in *Asia Times* and *The Print* summarizing the underlying economic problems contributing to the unrest. Both reports noted that pest pressures on Bt cotton and other environmental factors added to - but were not the root cause of - most of the farmers' concerns. Commentary from *Financial Express* columnist Vivian Fernandes noted that local seed firms were likely to regret urging the government to control cotton royalties and prices now that their own sale prices were being regulated. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Global Farmer Network board member, an Iowa farmer, warns President Trump's proposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum would hurt his farm business, likely sparking a trade war that will be bad for farmers who depend on exports for their livelihood, also notes Trump linked tariffs to NAFTA

News: CNBC reports farmers fear Chinese backlash targeting U.S. agricultural exports as consequence of U.S. tariffs on imports from China

Commentary: ACSH's Alex Berezow profiles middle school teacher whose Facebook page, "We Love GMOs and Vaccines," made him target of cyberbullying, points out University of Florida plant geneticist Kevin Folta also was targeted by anti-GMO activists, calls for rejection of cyberbullying

Commentary: Boulder Weekly columnist says Iowa State Russia GMO media analysis suggests Russia may be building anti-GMO narrative to establish Russia 'clean food' reputation to deliver economic gains to country

Commentary: Triple Pundit op-ed by former Grasslands Alliance senior scientist criticizes beef feedlots, claims they spread superbugs, pollute water, use pesticides that endanger pollinators, GM grains that cause decline in monarch butterflies

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: President of Uganda Science Journalists Association blogs about training session that gave journalists opportunity to see GM crops for first time, quotes fellow journalist saying scientists must communicate boldly to defend their work rather than allowing activists to spread incorrect information

News: Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Director notes Cartagena Protocol now in effect, crucial to address GMO handling and transit; notes Zambia has yet to pass biosafety law, another important step in addressing biotech use

Commentary: Hivos East Africa posts op-ed by NGO's Green Society program director arguing for caution in use and promotion of GM crops, citing concerns about decline of agrobiodiversity, soil fertility, smallholder agriculture, calling for giving priority to options that reduce environmental impacts

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Financial Express columnist Vivian Fernandes says Indian seed companies now see they erred in asking government to control cotton seed prices to settle dispute, should have sorted out issues with Mahyco Monsanto on their own

News: Asia Times reports farmers group marches to Mumbai to protest agrarian crisis, says pressures drive farmers to suicide as low food prices, pest attacks, Bt cotton failure cause financial crunch

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Pro-biotech Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama promotes new guide to understanding basic concepts of CRISPR technology, including CRISPR-Cas and CRISPR-Cas9, current and potential applications, difference from transgenic techniques

News release: Germany's Small Farmers Association (AbL) voices opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, demands that EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, Federal Minister of Economics Peter Altmaier and Federal Minister of Agriculture Julia Klockner take action to block the deal

News release: Germany's Organic Association for Organic Food and Agriculture (BOLW) announces statement by chairman Felix Lowenstein on coalition government ag and nutrition policies, calls for law to implement GM cultivation bans, believes CRISPR should be regulated

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Mexican NGO RED MOCAF announces Mexico's Environment and Natural Resources Commission will seek to "fast track" the General Biodiversity Law on March 15 despite a lack of consultation with indigenous people groups

News: La Jornada reports Mexico's Environment and Natural Resources Commission will seek to fast track General Biodiversity Law on March 15 despite protests from various groups

News release: Venezuela's Science and Technology Commission of the National Assembly announces approval of final report of the Seed Law, Commission president, deputy Luis Lippa emphasized importance of having the law adapt to modern technology

News: Brasil De Fato reports on observations of Day of the Consumer this week, including a round table talk by civil society organizations on March 18, Carla Bueno of Permanent Campaign Against Agrochemicals and Life discusses risks of pesticides and GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator issues notification of license application from CSIRO for field trial of rust disease-resistant GM wheat over five growing seasons between September 2018 and September 2023

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that an EU court sided with anti-biotechnology activists in allowing their legal challenge to recent GM soy approvals. A U.S. study on Bt maize benefits continues to gain international coverage.

- The European Union General Court affirmed that civil society groups may challenge the European Commission's approval of GM crops and food under Europe's Aarhus Convention, which allows the groups to participate in environmental policy decisions. Anti-biotechnology group Testbiotech had filed a lawsuit challenging the commission's approval of GM soy imports, arguing that GM soy had not been adequately reviewed for health impacts. The Commission initially rejected the complaint, arguing that the Aarhus Convention did not allow challenges to decisions based on health. The ruling implies that the European Commission must reassess its approval of the crops based on the Testbiotech challenge. **See more**

- European news outlets continued to amplify a study led by a University of Maryland researcher, which documented significant follow-on benefits from the cultivation of Bt maize over 40 years. Austria's *Der Standard* noted that farms neighboring the Bt maize fields were likely to see reduced pest populations. Similarly, Spanish agricultural outreach group Fundación Antama amplified a write-up from the Cornell Alliance for Science that described the benefits as a "halo effect" of the transgenic crops. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Futurism's Claudia Geib amplifies MIT article on efforts to shift authority over GE animal regulations from FDA to USDA, highlights importance of ensuring safety for humans and the environment, examines several benefits and animals under development

Commentary: Frank Giles of Growing Produce examines several GE solutions that could benefit specialty ag, highlights several developments to combat citrus greening in oranges, points to challenges brought by proliferation of Non-GMO Project labels

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies reports of severe monarch butterfly population decline, highlights link to increased use of herbicides on GM crops, leading to decline in milkweed habitat, promotes organic ag

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science writer says Uganda biotech communication workshop harnessed discussion with media, scientists on ways to improve public awareness of GMOs, notes Parliament to review Uganda biosafety bill this week

News: Kenya's Standard Digital reports public has 30 days to submit comments on trial of GM cotton at

nine research stations, notes trials will study performance of Bt cotton, enhanced with genes from naturally occurring bacteria to protect cotton against caterpillars, especially African bollworm

Commentary: Kenya's Business Daily runs op-ed by CEO of Green Earth Trust claiming nation's reluctance to approve release of GMO crops shows lack of consensus among stakeholders that genetic modification can solve food insecurity, arguing possible adverse effects of GMOs on human health not studied

More Africa items

Asia

News: Hindu Business Line reports government cottonseed price cut may force seed makers to diversify; seed makers also voice concerns in country's dependence on foreign technology for Bt seeds

News: Indian textile industry news outlet reports government forms committee to investigate illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant or Bollgard-III cotton in four states, notes such cultivation not approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee

Commentary: India's The Statesman runs op-ed arguing scientists concerned about consumption of GM foods, cattle feed, seeds, citing evidence they could harm environment and human health, pointing out many GM crops tied to broad-spectrum herbicides linked to serious health problems for humans, soil

Commentary: Sputnik columnist reports political groups criticize government for 'minimal' cuts to Monsanto Bt cotton royalties, arguing farmers should not pay for technology that does not work

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech praises EU court ruling confirming its right to submit legal cases on health risks of GM plants, Testbiotech's Christoph Then noted the decision is an important step towards strengthening the precautionary principle in the EU

News: Reuters reports on EU court ruling allowing civil society groups to challenge EU Commission's GMO authorizations, following Commission's rejection of Testbiotech's demand for review of decision to allow entry of GM soybeans by Monsanto and Pioneer

News: German ag news outlet reports on confusion created by differing standards for non-GMO animal feed, European Compound Feed Association (Fefac) calls on EU Commission to review national certification systems for GMO-free products

News: Reuters reports on Julia Kloeckner's appointment as German Ag Minister, replacing Christian Schmidt, Kloeckner is credited with negotiating the ag section of coalition deal for the new government, which includes plans to ban GM crops and glyphosate

News: Russia Today reports President Vladimir Putin tells farmers recent boost in Russian agriculture has made food sales abroad more profitable for nation than exports of military weapons; GMOs banned in Russia since 2016, Putin says he wants Russia to become world's largest seller of GMO-free food

Commentary: Kristin Halvorsen and Ole Johan Borge of Norway's Biotechnology Council write for local news outlet, promoting Council's call for broad debate on GMO legislation, highlighting proposal to exempt new GE techniques from current GMO regulations

News: Austria's Der Standard reports on University of Maryland study which found that Bt cotton reduces pest populations and insecticide use in neighboring crop fields, reports some of the authors have previously received funding from Bayer and Monsanto

Commentary: U.K.'s Financial Times runs op-ed by Jennifer Doudna, inventor of CRISPR-Cas9 technology, who asserts discovery has accelerated pace of modern research, leading to advances

shaping future of medicine, agriculture, notes chocolate manufacturers may see one of early uses of CRISPR-Cas9

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet editorial highlights many benefits of GMOs, such as increased productivity and reduced pesticide use, in addition to economic benefits, ahead of ag industry's plans to present biotech proposal to the government on March 19

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports on ag industry experts' warning that hindering exchange of ag products between the U.S. and Mexico as part of NAFTA renegotiation "would be a shot in the head," could impact consumers

News: Mexico's Gobernados reports on environmental analyst Octavio Klimek Alcaraz's call for consultation of new Biodiversity Law aimed at indigenous communities, due to issues important to them like traditional knowledge and use of natural and genetic resources

News: Mexican news outlet reports Mayan peasant NGO member joins actor Gael Garcia Bernal at UN to call for more justice for Mexico's indigenous peoples, voice opposition to transgenic soybean cultivation in Campeche

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Soil and Health Association of New Zealand encourages New Plymouth District Council to adopt precautionary provisions regarding trial or commercial use of GMOs, says the Proposed Draft New Plymouth District Plan fails to mention GMOs

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports topics of gene manipulation and development discussed during recent Grains Research and Development Corp.'s Grains Research Update in Perth, points out genetic modification of grain not accepted in all markets, posing threat to wheat modifications

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 an announced settlement agreement in class-action lawsuit brought by farmers against seed maker Syngenta. In India, government officials announced new Bt cottonseed prices.

- A law firm and media outlets reported that farmers, grain handlers and ethanol plants had reached a $1.5 billion settlement with Syngenta over what they claim was the company's mismanaged roll-out of its Viptera and Duracade corn seed. The lawsuit argued that, by marketing the corn seed before it had received export approval in China, Syngenta caused significant economic losses. A judge must still decide whether to approve the settlement. **See more**
- Indian officials announced that they had officially set Bollgard II cottonseed prices for the upcoming season, lowering overall prices and slashing trait royalties. Seed producers criticized the move, warning that it could make production of the seed unprofitable and risks reducing seed availability. A Mahyco Monsanto Biotech spokesperson added that the trait fee reductions undermined India's efforts to attract agricultural investment. **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: Alabama-based law firm announces $1.51 billion settlement reached in nationwide class action lawsuit against Syngenta covering all U.S. corn farmers; suit centered on company's GM corn seed; grain handling facilities and ethanol plants also covered; attorney from firm was co-lead class counsel

News: News wires report $1.5 billion settlement is reached in class-action lawsuit over Syngenta's release of GM corn, leading to rejected shipments from China, believed to be the largest agricultural litigation settlement in U.S. history

News: Canada's The Scientist reports on PNAS study analyzing 40 years of data which found that Bt corn is associated with higher yields and lower insecticide use in neighboring fields, demonstrating offsite benefits to other host plants for pests like corn borer

Commentary: Concerned citizen writes guest opinion article for The Guardian (Canada), argues that Prince Edward Island should be a GMO-free province, citing environmental risks of GMOs, does not oppose GE salmon, but believes it should be labeled

News: Politico's Morning Agriculture column reports regenerative agriculture hottest topic at California natural and organics trade show, with attempts to establish certifications, such as proposed Regenerative Organic Certification pushed by Rodale Institute, Patagonia

Report: Regenerative Organic Alliance releases pilot version of its proposed framework for Regenerative Organic Certification, including guidelines for soil health and land management, animal welfare; guidelines specifically prohibit use of GM additives or aids, including seeds, products of gene editing

Transcript: Poisoning Paradise film critical of Hawaii GMO and pesticide development by agribusiness; activists, plaintiffs and litigators alleges companies violating human rights by exposing public to allegedly risky and untested health hazards

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Mark Lynas reports Ugandan scientists believe seeds for maize genetically modified to tolerate drought, resist insects should be ready for farmers within two years, could protect crops against stem borer and fall armyworm, but political stalemate over GMOs continues

Video: Deutsche Welle interviews Nigerian environmental activist Nnimmo Bassey, he blames pollution on corporate greed, and argues that GM crops are unnecessary and destroy biodiversity

News: Zambian news outlet reports on Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity's opposition to GM crops, ZAAB chair Emmanuel Mutamba pointed to recent report finding little evidence that GMOs contribute to equitable or sustainable development

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian financial media outlets report on gov't decision to cut Bt cotton seed prices and trait values, a Mahyco Monsanto Biotech spokesman emphasized importance of collaboration and predictable business environment for attracting investment into ag innovation

News: India's Financial Express reports on gov't decision to cut Monsanto GM cotton seed royalties by 20 percent, amid tensions with the U.S. following Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, highlights Mahyco Monsanto Biotech's reaction

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports on seed producers' objections to Ag Ministry's order for cuts of Bt cotton seed prices and trait fees, highlights statements by Federation of Seed Companies of India President M. Ramasami, and by Mahyco Monsanto Biotech

News: The Hindu reports Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) calls on gov't to work on non-Bt cotton and supply enough seeds, amid controversy surrounding cuts in seed prices and royalties

More Asia items

Europe

Event: GMO-free Europe announces ninth European GMO-Free Regions Conference to be held Sept. 6 and 7 in Berlin, warns advent of GE technologies such as CRISPR-Cas likely to open new chapter of GMO debate, notes pending judgment by European Court of Justice could reshape legal situation

Commentary: Italy's AgriLegal examines regulation to restrict free-from labeling, such as "GMO-free" or "without palm oil," over concerns that such labeling can be misleading, argues that it goes against consumer interests for more transparency

Announcement: Russian government announces approval of action plan, "Development of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering," for 2018 through 2020, says it's adopting plan in expectation of mass introduction into production of methods, products of biotechnologies; ag and environmental biotech noted

News: Russia Today reports India reduces royalties paid by local seed companies to Monsanto for its GM cotton by 20 percent, prompting company threat to pull out of country; government also lowers prices of GM cotton seeds by 7.5 percent to support farmers fighting pest infestations

Commentary: Ukraine's StopFake site runs "Kremlin Watch" column from European Values Think-Tank that includes item on Iowa State University study finding Russian news outlets exploited debate over GMOs in United States; column suggests anti-GMO coverage driven by Russian opposition

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Argentina's El Litoral talks to Buenos Aires senator who helped make documentary "Fumigated Peoples," which questions use of agrochemicals and effects on people in the Argentine Pampa; Pino Solanas claims production in scale of cereals with transgenic seeds requires array of toxic agrochemicals

News: Argentinian news source reports researcher Damisn Marino warns that glyphosate, other pesticides must be prohibited in Gualeguaychu at city council meeting, highlights alarming data gleaned about contamination of Parana River, warns schools of Entre Rios at risk due to agricultural activity

Event: Uruguay's University of the Republic promotes talk, "Transgenic Foods in Uruguay: analysis and labeling," to be given March 15 by molecular biology professor, open to public, with topics to include promises and realities of GMOs, labeling of transgenics

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on CropLife Australia CEO Matthew Cossey's belief that Western Australia politicians have created unnecessary conflict between GM and non-GM growers in their support of inquiry investigating contamination compensation

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 12, 2018
Date: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:04:15 PM

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 reports that environmental activists could be behind a fire that damaged a seed research building in Italy. Sales of herbicide-tolerant cottonseed in India remained controversial.

- Italian news outlets reported that a DuPont-Pioneer seed research facility in Pessina Cremonese had been severely damaged by a fire over the weekend. Later reports noted that unidentified figures with Molotov cocktails were caught on security footage, leading investigators to suspect eco-terrorists were behind the fire. **See more**
- Officials in India's Telangana state announced that they had received complaints that local seed companies were selling an illegal, herbicide-tolerant cottonseed online and that the state task force investigating the issue had been alerted. Similarly, the Central government announced that it had formed a Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee to investigate illegal cottonseed sales. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: AgWired promotes episode of SMART Farmer podcast with Scott Hamilton Kennedy, director and producer of "Food Evolution" documentary, who spoke about Commodity Classic presentation in California; Kennedy asserts he considers film "pro-science" rather than "pro-GMO"

Study: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences publishes University of Maryland-led analysis finding Bt maize crops reduce pests and insecticide usage, economically benefit growers and have positive off-site impact

News: MIT Technology Review reports on Minnesota biotech company Recombinetics and other industry stakeholders' efforts to get Trump administration to give USDA authority to regulate gene-edited animals, highlights challenges in current FDA regulations

Commentary: Financial Post columnist warns GMO opponents must realize their beliefs are ideological and often slowing food production worldwide, leading to more hunger and food insecurity; writer argues for consumers to rethink their criticisms of ag industry, asserts farmers care about their land

Commentary: March Against Monsanto's Nick Meyer amplifies claims by Columbia University researchers that CRISPR gene editing process actually may cause hundreds of unpredictable gene mutations within cells of an organism, suggests CRISPR technology may not be as precise as supporters claim

News: Civil Eats reports official launch of new Regenerative Organic Certification at recent Natural Products Expo West trade show, notes Regenerative Organic Alliance is coalition of organizations and businesses; some in organic movement warn adding new label might not help

Commentary: Indiana ag news source discusses Trump's trade policies, points out EU still bans U.S. GMO products and opposes U.S. efforts to bring biotechnology to Africa; writer supports Trump's "get tough" attitude toward trade, says U.S. agriculture must decide how to use it

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project blogger updates Ugandan research on GM bananas engineered to resist pests and diseases, fortified with vitamin A and iron, notes vitamin A banana ready for scientists to perform taste tests; researchers apply to National Biosafety Committee for permit to cook and consume

Commentary: Daily Monitor columnist summarizes problems in Ugandan agriculture, notes local scientists are working on solutions but government delays acceptance

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Telangana Seed Certification Authority director K Keshavaulu's confirmation of complaint received about online sales of illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seed, as well as glyphosate herbicides, although its use is only permitted in non-crop areas

News: Indian news outlet reports on Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology's establishment of a Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) to investigate reports of illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton cultivation

News: India's Business Standard reports over 30,000 farmers will protest outside of Maharashtra Assembly, farmer leader Prashant Gawande blames failure of GM crop technology for cotton crop losses to pests

News: Asia Times reports over 40,000 farmers marched to Mumbai in protest of gov't breach of promise, small farmers are angered by crop failures, Maharashtra's cotton sector lost an estimated 30-70 percent of its cotton crop due to pest attacks

News: The New Indian Express reports Telangana farmers experiencing skin issues which ag scientists speculate are linked to pink bollworm or pesticides farmers use against pest

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes for CounterPunch, criticizes India's regulatory system for GMOs, amplifies Coalition for GM-Free India's reports about illegal GM soybean cultivation, criticizes push for GM mustard cultivation

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italy's Il Giorno reports on investigation into fire at DuPont Pioneer's research center in Pessina Cremonese, some suspect ecoterrorists, recalling attack on Monsanto's facility in Olmeneta last year

News: Italy's ANSA reports on large fire at DuPont Pioneer seed research center headquarters in Pessina Cremonese, the center has previously been the target of ecoterrorist actions, investigations are ongoing

News release: Italian NGO Associazione Luca Coscioni calls on scientists and citizens to mobilize for anti-prohibitionist legislation in Parliament, promotes upcoming World Congress for Scientific Research in April

Event: French NGO promotes conference set for March 20 in Saverne, France, on "Hidden GMOs," warning Monsanto, other companies have developed mutagenesis techniques, products from them may not be considered GMOs in the same way as products obtained by transgenesis

More Europe items

Latin America

Letter to the editor: Ecuador's El Universo runs letter from Florida agronomist defending need for biotechnology, GMOs, calling progress in production of food "unstoppable," arguing scientists forced to take technological leaps because pesticides have caused environmental damages

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Laguna coordinator of program for implementation of transgenic crops, Mario Valdez Berlanga's announcement of plans to plant seven hectares of GM alfalfa in La Laguna

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on Santa Cruz's Center for Tropical Technology Research's (CIAT) approval of 12 new commercial soybean varieties, CIAT executive director Luis Hurtado noted GMOs are more acceptable to producers and consumers

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 - March 12, 2018
Date: Monday, March 12, 2018 7:45:18 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

For the second time in as many months, an analysis of decades of data has come to the conclusion that genetically modified crops are beneficial. First, an Italian meta-analysis last month found GM corn to be beneficial and carry no evidence of health risks. Now, a University of Maryland study released today finds that Bt corn brings "significant" decreases in pesticide spraying regimens and overall damage in crops including sweet corn, peppers, and green beans. In a piece below, Murenga Mwimali argues that its time for leaders to start paying attention to such research and embrace biotechnology.

Also highlighted below are rebuttals to the European Food Safety Authority's assessments of neonics from David Zaruk and Angela Logomasini, plus further commentary on Russian influence on anti-GMO sentiment and criticisms of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Several organizations also marked International Women's Day last week with profiles of prominent women in food and agriculture and efforts to empower female farmers in the developing world.

To view items on this newsleffer, 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: Gary Hirshberg

Leading mandatory GMO labeling and anti-pesticide advocate and organic industry mogul Gary Hirshberg is back in the news this week. His Stonyfield Organic brand

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: EFSA review claiming neonics harm bees based on "scientifically worthless" guidance document

Iida Ruishalme and Alison Bernstein: IARC's reliance on hazard while ignoring actual risk only confuses public

Jonathan Jarry: Mike Adams' online empire - including Natural News - creates "alternate reality" for anti-GMO pseudoscience

Andrew Porterfield: Russia pushing anti-GMO propaganda in U.S. to boost its agricultural power

Hank Campbell: Environmental Working Group adds another board member from organic industry, further proving it is not independent

University of Maryland analysis finds Bt corn significantly decreases insecticide spraying and overall damage to several crops

Angela Logomasini: EFSA neonic reviews applied "excessively precautionary approach that makes little sense"

Julie Kelly and Jeff Stier: "Fundamental" changes needed to IARC before it engrains itself further into U.S. policy

announced he would return to an operational role kicking off a major political advocacy campaign to promote organic interests in the 2018 U.S. elections.

Hirshberg was also named as a founder and angel investor in the natural health and supplement company Ancient Nutrition, seeking a multibillion-dollar payout bringing that company to market.

Learn more about Hirshberg HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Lowell Catlett: U.S. Sen. Udall should remove hold, allow authorization of Pesticide Registration Improvement Act

Murenga Mwimali: African leaders should pay attention to studies finding GM crops safe, embrace Water Efficient Maize project

Deepak Pental: India "can't go back to pre-1900 agriculture"

Steven Cerier: New breeding techniques bring potential to produce disease-, drought- and pest-resistant crops

Video: New York Times' Nicholas Kristof has skewed view about chemicals found in activist group's urine test

Deniers for Hire: Center for Biological Diversity's Nathan Donley and his "misplaced faith" in IARC

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Judge considers scientific testimony in case over claims that glyphosate causes cancer

University of Montreal researcher previews study claiming neonics impact hormones in humans

Indian cotton seed companies threaten to halt supply in protest of government plan to cut prices

Activist groups amplify poll finding most U.S. farmers fear Bayer's purchase of Monsanto will have negative impact

European Commission expected to propose neonic ban after EFSA risk assessments claim harm to bees

Calendar highlights

March 13	March 13	March 13
Chemical Watch Global Business Summit (Amsterdam)	Royal Society Te Aparangi gene editing workshop (New Zealand)	Geneva Human Rights Film Festival screening of "Poisoning Paradise"
March 14-16	March 14	March 14
World Biotechnology Conference (London)	Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe (Rotterdam)	South by Southwest festival session - "GMO 2.0: Beyond Monsanto"
March 14-15	March 14, 15 and 16	March 17-20
EFSA open meeting of Panel on Plant Protection Products and their	Norway Biotechnology Council public forums on GMOs	Endocrine Society annual meeting (Chicago)

Residues		

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 9-11, 2018
Date: Sunday, March 11, 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included anti-biotech NGO GM Freeze launching campaigns to oppose GMO cultivation and to support GM food labeling in the U.K. Ministers in the U.K. are seeking post-Brexit powers that include control over GMO cultivation and labeling, animal health and welfare. A Mexican Chamber of Deputies commission rejected the General Biodiversity Law.

- GM Freeze launched two anti-biotech campaigns, "Safeguard Our Farms" and "Don't Hide What's Inside," to prohibit post-Brexit GMO cultivation and to promote GMO labeling in the U.K. Meanwhile, *BBC* reported British ministers are seeking to control 24 areas after the U.K. leaves the European Union, including power over GMO cultivation and marketing, pesticides and animal health and welfare. A Scottish minister called the move "a power grab." Scottish news site *The National* said if the U.K. government gains those powers, there soon would be "chlorinated chicken, hormone-injected beef and genetically modified vegetables" on Scottish plates. **See more**

- *La Jornada* reported the House Commission of Indigenous Affairs voted to reject Mexico's General Biodiversity Law after finding the proposal violates indigenous peoples' rights. Party of the Democratic Revolution leaders called for a detailed review of the proposed law that would include consultation with indigenous groups. The law has been approved by the Senate. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization profiles several prominent women in science, food and ag in honor of International Women's Day, recognizes Alison Van Eenennaam, Emma Naluyima Mugerwa, Mary-Dell Chilton, Nina Fedoroff and Tamar Haspel

News: Farming news site reports Iowa study finds Russian state media conducting "coordinated campaign;" researchers speculate the campaign maligns U.S. agencies and creates division between U.S. and NATO allies

News: Western Canada ag news site highlights MIT study finding social media helps fake news spread faster than truthful reports, suggests study could explain difficulties convincing public about safety of GM food, pesticides despite scientific support

Commentary: The Western Producer's Sean Pratt amplifies Farmer's Business Network report showing negative impact of agribusiness mergers on farmers, network co-founder Charles Baron noted that as companies' market shares increase, so do prices

News: Mother Jones reports on Iowa State University study on Russian efforts to influence U.S. public opinion on GMOs, highlights American Council on Science and Health Senior Fellow Alex Berezowâ€™s belief that it is an attempt to hurt U.S. ag companies

Commentary: Pro-green organic advocacy blog refutes Henry Miller claims in Newsweek piece of organic food as "a deceitful, expensive scam" stresses pesticides, GMOs more harmful to environment, causing

superweeds

News: Science magazine reports Germany to increase R&D budget, but still plans to ban GM cultivation; says research leaders continue lobbying for legislation focusing on product benefits or drawbacks rather than technique used to make it

More North America items

Africa

Interview: EnviroNews Nigeria interviews University of Abuja microbiologist Isu Nnennaya Rosemary, she emphasizes importance of biotech and several benefits, including improved nutrition, highlights importance of commuication

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian environmental news site reports farmer group demands investigation into GEAC inaction after agency denied receiving complaints about illegal GM soy cultivation in Gujarat, notes evidence suggests GEAC did receive complaints

News: Reuters reports Chinese commerce minister says China does not want a trade war with U.S., says "There are no winners in a trade war;" but notes it can handle a challenge and protect its interests

News: India's Business Today reports RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) calls on Ag Ministry to stop royalty payments to Monsanto for its Bollgard II Bt cotton seed technology, arguing that it was ineffective and led to widespread crop losses

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: EuropaBio encourages stakeholders to submit comments on EFSA's risk assessment on food before public consultation closes March 20

News: BBC reports U.K. government announces intentions to retain temporary control post-Brexit over 24 devolved areas including: standards for marketing, cultivating GMOs; registration, evaluation, authorization, restriction of pesticides

News: Scottish news site reports if U.K. holds onto devolved powers following Brexit, Scotland may have to give up controls over food safety, air quality, pesticide control, thus allowing GM crops, chlorinated chicken, hormone-injected beef

News release: The Royal Society reports its study shows U.K. public generally optimistic about gene editing capabilities to solve problems such as climate change, human health, inequality; points out public still has general fear regarding the technology

News: Bloomberg reports U.K. loses reciprocal standards arrangements with EU, U.S. upon Brexit, putting organic certifications, rules governing GM food, other items

Commentary: Independent researcher on organic issues, Tiziano Gomiero, writes for Italian news outlet, accuses Italian media of spreading disinformation about GMOs, labeling recent coverage of Italian study on GM corn as a "colossal media hoax"

News: Spain's El Confidencial reports on Brazilian gov't approval of GM Bt sugarcane variety developed by Canavieira Technology Center (CTC), to provide resistance to sugarcane borer pest, highlights challenge of public acceptance

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports on Brazil's approval of Monsanto's new Intacta2 Xtend GM soybean seed, engineered with pest resistance and tolerance to dicamba and glyphosate, highlights ongoing litigation with Brazilian soy farmers over Intacta RR2 Pro patent rights

News release: Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) publishes statement issued by women who participated in protests for National Day of Struggles of the Landless Women, voicing opposition to agribusiness

News: Bolivian news site reports at close of soy exposition, producers, exporters ask government to approve GM soy cultivation; research director notes Bolivia is only country in region that does not allow GM cultivation

News: Notimex reports on Party of the Democratic Revolution's (PRD) recognition of House Commission of Indigenous Affairs' rejection of the General Biodiversity Law, PRD called for a detailed review of the legislation

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Pop Sugar's Rosy Pahwa examines debate about whether soy is unhealthy, highlights claims that GM soy can kill beneficial gut bacteria, harm the digestive system and cause allergies, advises readers to eat non-GMO, organic soy products

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 8, 2018
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 9 00 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

Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing controversy over Bt cotton efficacy and price controls in India. Reporting on coordination between Bangladesh researchers and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) continued. International Women's Day events in Brazil highlighted calls for food sovereignty and peasant agriculture.

- The National Seed Association of India warned government regulators that recommended prices for Bt cottonseed were unsupportable and could result in significant shortages of seeds for the upcoming planting season. In a letter to the central agriculture ministry, the seed producers contended that increased production costs and the increased prices for cotton fiber should incentivize a price increase. **See more**
- International Women's Day events in Brazil highlighted female farmers' calls for rejecting large-scale agriculture in favor of peasant food systems and agroecology. Among a large list of demands, including pension reforms and protests against the deposing of former President Dilma Roussef, statements from the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra noted that women farmers asked for support against violence and displacement perpetrated by large landowners in the region. **See more**
- *United News of Bangladesh* reported on a visit by IRRI Director General Matthew Morell to the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), highlighting the collaboration between the two institutes on several improved rice varieties. The Bangladesh news outlet highlighted the BRRI field trials of Golden Rice and quoted officials who emphasized that it could have a significant impact on malnutrition in the country. **See more**
- In a report embargoed until March 12, researchers with the University of Maryland summarized 40 years of Bt maize production and found significant environmental benefits from the crop. Specifically, the researchers highlighted reduced crop damage, reduced adult moth populations and decreased insecticide use. The paper will be published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. **See more**

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North America

Embargoed release (March 12): National Academy of Sciences announces University of Maryland study shows Bt corn significantly decreases insecticide spraying, adult moth activity, and overall damage to several vegetable crops

Announcement: Iowa congressional delegation sends letter to President Trump urging him to reconsider tariffs on Chinese goods, warn him it could start trade war that will hurt Iowa farmers - who export 60 percent of the state's soy to China - and other businesses

News: Politico Pro reports Iowa congressional delegation warns Trump his tariffs on imports could start trade war that Iowans cannot afford, note 60 percent of state's soy exported to China yearly

News: Mic reports on rising trend of regenerative agriculture as a movement to go beyond organic and promote dedication to healthy soil, highlights new collaboration between Dannon, Annie's and Ben and Jerry's to establish regenerative ag certification

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins asks for donations, writes about collaboration with Regeneration International to revolutionize farming, moving it towards regenerative agriculture, claims industrial farming is "dangerous disaster" that destroys food, farms, environment

Commentary: Iowa farmer Tim Burrack writes for Global Farmer Network, criticizes Russia's attempts to shift U.S. public opinion against GMOs, amplifying Iowa State University findings, notes Russia is trying to bring the U.S. down rather than catch up

Commentary: In Genetic Literacy Project, freelance ag writer examines researchers' hopes that gene editing may open doors for new animal and crop developments blocked by current biotech regulations, highlights calls for product-based assessments

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana's Joy reports former deputy agriculture minister attends screening of "Food Evolution" in Accra, sponsored by Alliance for Science Ghana, urges scientists to simplify issue of GMO technology to help public understand it properly

News: Tanzania's The Citizen reports on debate surrounding ongoing GM crop field trials, University of Dar es Salaam's Richard Mbunda argued that GM research may lead to "food colonialism" in a paper presented at a recent symposium

News: Xinhua reports on announcement by Acting CEO of Kenya's National Biosafety Authority, Dorington Ogoyi, that the agency is finalizing draft guideline on GE animal research, he noted that Kenya is setting the pace for other African countries

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports National Seed Association of India asks government not to reduce cottonseed price for upcoming season but to instead consider price hike to offset significant increase in production costs; seed industry warns price cuts could lead to severe shortage

News: Reuters reports Indian seed companies threaten to halt supply to eight million cotton farmers in protest of gov't plan to cut prices by 7.5 percent, National Seed Association of India's Kalyan Goswami noted producers would also not supply the 2019 season

News: India's Business Standard reports industry sources believe that Environment Ministry's order for Directorate General of Foreign Trade to stop all GM soybean imports without its approval will not be effective unless plant quarantine authority and customs department are involved

News: United News of Bangladesh reports director general of IRRI visits Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, discusses ways to strengthen collaboration between institutes on projects such as Golden Rice, C4 Rice, Zinc Enriched Rice, Transforming Rice Breeding

News: Global Times reports China still prohibiting cultivation of staple GM food crops, only allows GM cotton and papaya to be grown commercially, but imports GM soybeans, rapeseed, cotton and corn; agriculture minister says science must determine safety of GM foods first, but consumers have final say

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report on Japan says its Consumer Affairs Agency expected to decide by end of March 2018 on labeling requirements for GE foods, with concept of tighter requirements for "non-GE" labeling expected to be focus of committee's next meeting

More Asia items

Europe

News release: EuropaBio announces launch of GMOinfo.eu website, offering information about GMOs in 10 different languages, suggests factual information about GMOs in Europe can be hard to find among mistaken perceptions, notes relatively small percentage of global GM cultivation in Europe

Commentary: "Risk Monger" David Zaruk writes for European Seed, examines why the organic lobby is against new breeding techniques, highlights their strategies and scaremongering campaigns, provides advice for plant researchers on how to respond

News: German news agency reports on debate on status of products of gene editing as both sides await EU Court of Justice's ruling, notes regulating products of CRISPR as GMOs could prove difficult as the end results are indistinguishable from those occurring in nature

Report: Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification promotes new report, "The importance of maize and oilseed rape field margins for Lepidoptera," identifies species that could be found around GM maize fields, "exposed to Bt toxins by GM pollen deposition"

Commentary: The Butterfly Foundation uses Dutch nature site to promote COGEM report suggesting risks for butterflies in margins of fields planted in GM maize; NGO cites decreasing butterfly populations in Netherlands, where GM crops not permitted, calls for keeping country GM-free

Event: France's Volunteer Reapers promote act of civil disobedience April 5 and 6 in Dijon involving group's destruction of test plots of GM rapeseed, claim GMOs obtained by mutagenesis rather than transgenesis are "hidden," and have same effects as trangenics

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Movement of Landless Rural Workers notes 300 women members occupied a Mato Grosso farm, denounced threats from landowners, claim countless murders commissioned by the estate owners

News: Brazilian news source reports law that would make labeling of transgenic foods more flexible postponed in Senate committee, under criticism by consumer groups, which say science unable to identify all risks of eating GMOs, so products need up-to-date information on labels

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Commission on Indigenous Affairs' warning that General Law on Biodiversity could violate indigenous peoples' rights, especially the section on "Genetic Diversity," regarding traditional knowledge and genetic resources

News: Mexico's El Sol de Puebla reports Sagarpa OKs experimental release of Monsanto transgenic crops in Puebla, points out only four territories in country have issued no permits for release of GMOs, gives details of CECCAM report, "Thirty years of transgenics in Mexico"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand's Newshub reports protesters cement their feet in concrete outside MP's office in effort to stop CPTPP, warn agreement could give corporations ability to sue genetic engineering opponents in tribunals

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 7, 2018
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:04:33 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 the launch of a new "regenerative agriculture" certification standard by anti-biotechnology group Green America. An Indian seed agency said it would launch criminal action against companies caught selling herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds. Greenpeace warned that Brazil's Social Affairs Committee could soon approve changes that relax the country's GMO labeling standards.

- Green America and The Carbon Underground announced a new regenerative agriculture certification program to identify food companies and farmers working to build soil health, restore the carbon cycle and improve crop resilience. DanoneWave announced it would seek the certification for products developed under "The Dannon Pledge" portfolio, including its non-GMO verified products. **See more**
- In India, the Telangana Seed Certification Agency instructed district collectors to initiate criminal proceedings against seed companies caught selling illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds. The agency told *The Times of India* that the Union government had received complaints over the sale of the Bollgard3 variety, which had not been approved by the country's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee. **See more**
- Greenpeace Brazil, previewing a vote today on the country's GMO labeling regulations, called for supporters to contact senators on the Social Affairs Committee and protest the proposed changes. Current guidelines call for a "transgenic" label on foods that contain any trace of genetically modified ingredients, while the draft bill would exempt foods where GMOs comprise less than 1 percent of the total. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: Green America and The Carbon Underground announce launch of Regenerative Agriculture verification program, in partnership with Ben and Jerry's (Unilever), DanoneWave, Annie's (General Mills) and MegaFood

News release: DanoneWave announces participation in regenerative agriculture certification schemed developed by Green America, also highlights soil health investments at Cornell University and Ohio State University

Announcement: In emailed statement, Organic Consumers Association group previews launch of Regneration Midwest Alliance to advocate for "systems-change approach" encouraging organic, soil-focused agriculture

News release: Stonyfield Organic announces new lobbying role for co-founder Gary Hirschberg, previews campaigns on mid-term voting and climate change, as well as protests against recent EPA policies

Announcement: New Jersey Assemblywoman for District 20, Annette Quijano, introduces bill into state Legislature to require labeling of foods containing GM material

News release: University of Illinois' Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency project touts its GE research that created tobacco plants requiring 25 percent less water, altering expression of one gene found in all plants doesn't compromise yield, complements previous work to improve photosynthesis

Commentary: Reason's Ronald Bailey amplifies RIPE project's research on tobacco plants engineered to use 25 percent less water while maintaining yields, notes it could push back limits on growth claimed by those who argue people use more water than ecosystems can sustain without deterioration

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Emmanuel Mutamba of Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) calls on Zambia to uphold its biosafety standards and resist pressure to weaken laws on GMOs, lists several concerns about proposed policy revisions

Commentary: Savio Kyambadde and David Torrey Peters write for Uganda's Dispatch, examining both sides of GMO debate, they highlight potential benefits such as drought tolerance, as well as concerns about Monsanto's business practices

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Telangana Seed Certification Agency's call on collectors of 31 districts to take criminal action against those selling herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton, highlights concerns that indiscriminate use may lead to resistant weeds

News release: Coalition for GM-Free India accuses Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of lying in its response to Right to Information (RTI) application for information on illegal GM soy, and of failing in its regulatory roles

News: Reuters reports on likelihood that India will impose yet another cut to Monsanto royalties for its GM cotton technology by 20.4 percent to compensate Indian seed makers, in addition to price cuts on seeds to help farmers who have suffered pest damage

Interview: GM mustard developer Deepak Pental speaks with Smart Indian Agriculture's Vivian Fernandes, expresses disappointment in resistance to the crop and warns that so-called organic farming practices can't meet future needs

News: Beijing Commercial Daily reports on Ministry of Agriculture spokesman Pan Xianzheng's recent statement that China has a "clear and consistent" GM management system, to ensure safety, noting that only GM cotton and papaya are approved for cultivation

News release: International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) praises Bangladesh Minister for Agriculture Matia Chowdhury's support of GM crop cultivation, including Golden rice, in acknowledgement of potential to help meet U.N. zero hunger goal by 2030

News: Saigon Times reports on Bangladesh's use of GM rice and Food Standards Australia New Zealand's approval of golden rice for food, reports that if Bangladesh relies on its own GM rice, rice imports from Vietnam may be reduced

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K.'s Press Association reports Royal Society public dialogue, survey finds majority of respondents support use of gene editing to improve nutrition, disease resistance in plants

News: Science magazine reports some observers worry results of Italy's recent parliamentary elections

may hurt science; Five Star Movement, right-wing parties took anti-scientific stands in campaign; M5S calls for ban on cultivation of GMOs, but University of Milan stem cell scientist fights party's claims

Campaign: Eleonora Evi of Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD)/Five Star Movement and five other MEPs from different parties voice objection to EU authorization of 22 new GMOs in spite of Parliament's rejections

News: Food Navigator reports European Parliament rejects Italian member's motion to ban certain "free-from" claims on food products on grounds they mislead consumers; motion understood to refer to palm oil or GM ingredients

Commentary: Greens/EFA campaigner writes for Green European Journal on perils of Bayer-Monsanto consolidation, says consolidation threatens crop diversity and food security and claims plant patents prevent small seed producers from innovating

Announcement: Volunteer Reapers solicits volunteers to help organize Reaper's Day festival to inform public of the environmental, human health risk of GMOs (March 30-April 1)

More Europe items

Latin America

Campaign: Greenpeace Brazil asks supporters to write senators to reject bill to remove GMO labels in advance of March 7 vote, notes policy threatens consumers right to know what they eat

Commentary: Alessandra Jacobovski and Naiara Bittencourt of Brazilian NGO Terra De Direitos oppose proposed changes to GMO labeling legislation, they emphasize consumers' right to information and to adequate food, pointing to GMO health risks

News: Mexico's El Financiero reports on recent Agro Forum, where representatives from Morena, the PRI and Por Mexico parties explained stances on GMOs, Morena's Javier Delgado opposes use, Por Mexico's Vicente Gomez pointed to issue of competitiveness, and PRI's Baltazar Hinojosa argued for openness

Commentary: Movement of Landless Rural Workers promotes rallies honoring National Day of Struggles of the Landless Women, denouncing neglect and paralysis of Agrarian Reform, calling for reform to strengthen peasant agriculture

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports study published in Nature Communications shows researchers at University of Illinois genetically engineered test tobacco crop that uses 25 percent less water than conventional, could become important tool as climate change intensifies

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 6, 2018
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:01:18 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 had approved new GM corn and soy varieties for cultivation following an agreement on royalties. Indian news outlets reported that the government was likely to impose a nearly 10 percent price reduction on Bollgard II cotton seeds.

- News outlets reported that Argentina approved two new GM corn varieties and a GM soy variety developed by Syngenta, Dow Chemical and Bayer SA. *Reuters* noted that the crop approvals follow a Feb. 22 agreement between farmer groups and seed companies over royalty payments, with farmers agreeing to pay trait fees for patented seeds produced in previous harvests. The agreement resolved years of controversy, including a 2015 surge in activism over payments for Monsanto's Intacta technology. **See more**
- In India, *Mint* and *The Hindu* reported that a government price-setting panel is expected to cut Bollgard II seed fees by nearly 10 percent. The country's lead seed body criticized the move, saying that the recommended prices include a 39 rupee royalty fees despite evidence that the seed trait was proving ineffective in some regions. Activist commentary in *Firstpost* emphasized these claims, arguing that cotton production has stagnated in the country following the introduction of Bt cotton seeds. **See more**
- Peasant mobilization groups in Europe and Latin America previewed protests and activities around International Women's Day tomorrow (March 8). CLOC-La Via Campesina called for a rejection of multinational agricultural companies and an emphasis on agroecology and "creole" seeds. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines Iowa State University study on Russia's attempts to influence U.S. opinion on GMOs, highlights Russia's economic motives for doing so, and its history of disinformation campaigns

Commentary: Writing for Triple Pundit, green products certification company food-ag manager says interest in Non-GMO Project certification on the rise as consumers seek authenticity in food, question industry ethics

Commentary: The Non-GMO Project posts blog encouraging brand owners to get products verified by NGO to demonstrate commitment to transparency, take advantage of growing non-GMO market, cites surveys showing U.S., Canadian consumers want GMO labeling

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health writer says study finding CRISPR solves a reoccurring gene editing challenge in wheat establishes breeding technique as a promising tool for developing improved GM wheat

Interview: Elysium Health's science publication Endpoints interviews Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts, he discusses his pro-GMO advocacy, explains importance of GM technology for developing countries, and damage caused by Greenpeace's opposition

News: St. Louis Public Radio reports Center for Biological Diversity claims dicamba interrupts the growth of milkweed, other plants that monarchs feed on, promotes need to maintain hospitable conditions for milkweed, limiting pesticide use

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on scientists' call on gov't to invest in ag biotech to improve farming standards and boost farmers' incomes, Applied Biotech in Nigeria and America's Nwadiuto Esiobu argued Nigeria will not advance without embracing biotech

More Africa items

Asia

News: Mint reports anonymous source expects India ag ministry to cut Bt cotton seed prices, trait fees to help farmers struggling from pests, crop losses; seed groups say decision would threaten cotton seed production

News: The Hindu reports gov't panel recommends price decrease for Bollgard-II Bt cotton seed this season, with a Rs50 drop for dealers and seed-producing firms, and a Rs10 trait value reduction for Mahyco Monsanto Biotech Limited

Commentary: Rohit Parakh of India For Safe Food writes for Firstpost, amplifies FactChecker analysis of gov't data which found that Bt cotton yields have stagnated, points to negative health and environmental effects of associated chemical use

News: United News of India reports Coalition for GM-Free India charges Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) and Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT) with regulatory failure and irresponsibility over illegal GM soybean seeds

More Asia items

Europe

Event: European Coordination Via Campesina promotes March 8 International Women's Day and struggle "for land, food sovereignty, water, seeds, and agroecology"

Campaign: SumOfUs launches French-language petition to European Commission urging it to reinforce current legislation, prohibit production of GMOs on its territory to prevent any movement of GMOs in Europe

News: Dutch news outlet reports on Uganda's development of GM bananas, highlights work of Stephen Buah and Priver Namanya at Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization, and Namanya's frustrations at opposition from Western anti-GMO groups

Commentary: Editorial for French ecology news site Reporterre promotes new book by Vandana Shiva and Nicola Hulot, "The Virtuous Circle," highlights their arguments in favor of protecting 'common goods' such as water, air, land and seeds

Commentary: Italy's Guidasicilia amplifies statement by National Federation of Agricultural Products Traders (Compag) challenging Italy's anti-GMO policies, echoes argument that embracing technology will improve self-sufficiency, protect 'Made in Italy' brand

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Argentina approves varieties of GM corn, soy in wake of farmer-GM seed

producer agreement to pay royalties on second-generation seeds

News: Argentina's Agrovoz reports on gov't approval of new GM corn and soybean seeds by Bayer, Dow and Syngenta, with pest-resistance and herbicide-tolerance, Ag Minister Luis Miguel Etchevehere noted goal of promoting sustainability, productivity and ag exports

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on Inter-American Court of Human Rights' (IACtHR) unpublished ruling that a healthy environment is a human right, calling on states to act in accordance with the precautionary principle

News: Mexico's SinEmbargo reports on Center for Studies for Change in the Mexican Field's (CECCAM) report on 30 years of transgenic use in Mexico, highlighting benefits to foreign companies Bayer and Monsanto, only four states remain GMO-free by law

News: Mexico's Inforural reports on SAGARPA's public consultation on proposed GM cotton and alfalfa cultivation in La Laguna, with participation of National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, fulfilling regulatory requirements

News: Huffington Post Mexico reports on conservation groups' opposition to General Law of Biodiversity, Center for Biological Diversity's Mexico rep. Alejandro Olivera noted it would impact regulations on genetic issues, protected natural areas and mining

Event: CLOC-La Via Campesina calls for "mobilization, action and struggle" for March 8 International Women's Day events in Latin America, denounce "transnationals of agro-hydro-mining that usurp, poison our lands, kill our rivers, our creole seeds, destroying all the life they go through"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia farm news source reports analysis funded by grain, biotech groups finds no premiums in South Australia GM-free status; researchers say findings, proven GMO safety both support lift in GMO moratorium

Report: Grain Producers SA-commissioned independent analysis finds South Australia's GM-free status has produced no premiums to growers; NGO calls for lift on moratorium

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on recent Australian Bureau of Agriculture Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) summit, where executive director Steve Hatfield-Dodds emphasized importance of understanding what drives consumers, calling on ag industry to take the lead in GM debate

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 new set of international rules on liability addressing damage from living modified organisms (LMOs). In Europe, a Swiss anti-GMO group announced a speaking tour by British activists as part of its "no new GMOs" campaign.

- The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity announced that the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress entered into force today. The new rules set up systems for addressing damage caused by the transboundary movement of GMOs and sets up a "polluter pays principle." The protocol was ratified by Japan in mid-December, marking the 40th ratification and triggering its eventual adoption. **See more**
- The Swiss anti-biotechnology group Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei, coordinating with the activist groups GMWatch and Gen Au Rheinau, announced a speaking tour by British anti-GMO campaigners Claire Robinson and Michael Antoniou, scheduled for March 20-23. The activists will address the "risks and necessary regulation" of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). **See more**
- Beginning on Tuesday (March 6), farmers in India's Maharashtra state plan to march from Nashik to Mumbai, where they'll demand loan forgiveness programs over Bt cotton crop failures. A spokesperson for the farmers says that the state promised significant loan waivers but has yet to pay the promised amounts, and he called for cottonseed producers to compensate the farmers. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) announces plans to roll out new publication on biotech regulations on March 22-23, with goal of informing the public of importance of GE plants and animals for prosperity and food safety

Commentary: Economist Steven Cerier writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines debate surrounding products of new breeding techniques, highlights potential to produce disease-, drought- and pest-resistant crops, and to boost nutrition

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health amplifies Iowa State University research on Russia's efforts to sway U.S. public opinion against GMOs using 'clickbait,' encourages readers to support groups promoting evidence-based science

News: Quartz reports on decline of "Big Food" era as Grocery Manufacturers Association loses several large member companies, Peter Lurie of Center for Science in the Public Interest believes GMA was "just too stubborn" on issues like GMO labeling

More North America items

Africa

Video: NTV Kenya reports on negative economic impacts of Cassava Mosaic Virus and Cassava Brown Streak Disease, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) scientists discuss developments in GM cassava

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports farmers associated with All Indian Kisan Sabha will participate in 250 km Nashik-Mumbai march, demanding loan waivers to all farmers in the state, in addition to compensation to cotton farmers who suffered losses from pink bollworm

News: Times of India reports head of two-member team investigating prevalence of illegal HT cotton seeds, potential link with deaths due to pesticide inhalation, replaced ahead of Mar. 7 deadline for submitted report, notes potential need for work "to start from scratch"

News release: Convention on Biological Diversity announces Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress comes into force, requiring that response measures be taken in event of damage resulting from living modified organisms

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer reports on UP League of Agricultural Biotechnology Students' (UPLABS) annual National Biotechnology Summit from March 5-9, topics will include "Biotechnology in the Context of the Philippines" and "Regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms"

More Asia items

Europe

Event: Swiss anti-GMO NGO Gen Au Rheinau to co-host lecture event on new breeding techniques with GeneWatch and SAG/StopOGM (March 20-23, 2018), featuring Dr. Michael Antoniou of King's College, London and Claire Robinson of GMWatch

Commentary: Claire Robinson of GMWatch writes for Independent Science News, criticizes EFSA's favorable assessment of Monsanto's new stacked-trait GM corn variety, argues that EFSA only considers potential risks of individual traits, but not in combination

News: Scotland's The National reports on open letter signed by over 20 organizations, including Global Justice Now and Friends of the Earth Scotland, and over 800 people, in opposition to U.K. Trade Bill, voicing concerns about allowing GM crops

Commentary: International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Acting Secretariat Katy Lee writes for European Seed, provides highlights of IGTC's policy on plant breeding innovation, argues that regulatory decision making must be based on sound science

News: Euronews reports on demonstration against Bayer-Monsanto deal in Lyon, France, one protester voiced support for public health, the environment and farmers, noted they are fighting against agro-chemistry and agro-industry

Event: Demosphere announces concert by Jur and Julien (March 16, 2018) in support of GMO Volunteer Reapers, to support defense of their acts of civil disobedience in court

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) announces protest by over 1,000 women in front of Suzano pulp and paper mill, in opposition to large-scale eucalyptus production, aerial spraying, monocultures and use of transgenic seeds

News: Reuters reports about 100 Brazilian sugar mills have planted initial area of 400 hectares with GM

Bt sugarcane developed by Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira (CTC), CTC CEO Gustavo Leite noted goal of eventually reaching 1.5 million hectares

Commentary: Argentinian news outlet editorial emphasizes economic importance of the country's Ag export market, highlights role of science in development of seeds, plants and forms of cultivation, points to the Netherlands' successful ag sector, which employs GMOs

Commentary: York University PhD candidate Lina Pinto Garcia and Sabina Rasmussen write for Colombia's El Pais, calling on Ministry of Health to establish transparent dialogues on proposed release of GE mosquitoes in Cali, they also promote exploring alternatives

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian subscription news outlet reports grain producers call on all parties to reopen debate GMOs within 12 months after the election, arguing that South Australia farmers are disadvantaged by the GM moratorium

More Oceania items

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 5, 2018
Date: Monday, March 5, 2018 4:01:49 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

The question of whether there was Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election has been a topic in the headlines for more than a year. But what about Russian influence on U.S. agriculture and attitudes toward biotechnology?

An Iowa State University analysis concluded that Russian outlets are behind "misinformation attacks" spreading anti-GMO sentiment in the United States. The topic is explored further in a series of articles in this week's newsletter.

Among other articles, Bill Gates refers to GMOs as "perfectly healthy" and Paul Driessen calls for the U.S. Congress to "get tough" on the pseudo-science promoted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and U.S. National Institutes for Environmental Health Sciences director Linda Birnbaum.

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In This Issue

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Charles Benbrook

"He's back! The Energizer Bunny of organic industry-funded advocacy and pesticide litigation consulting, Charles Benbrook has released another industry-funded study claiming organic foods are superior in health and

Stories Worth Sharing

Carly Cassella: Americans "playing right into Putin's hand" by distrusting GMOs

Anastasia Bodnar: Add Russian influence to reasons people have "irrational fear" of biotechnolgy

Paul Driessen: Time for U.S. Congress to show "spine" and hold International Agency for Research on Cancer accountable

David Zaruk: NGOs' "silence the science" tactic in full effect against neonicotinoids

Brian McNicoll: U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam just behind Russian outlets in spreading most anti-GMO rhetoric

Bill Gates: GMOs are "perfectly healthy," promising tool to fight world hunger

Peter Van Voorhis: "Unscientific work" of IARC finally being revealed as U.S. lawmakers stand behind farmers

Hank Campbell: Judge turns to science to block lawyers' bid to "get rich" ott glyphosate cancer claims

nutrition to their lower-priced conventional counterparts.

Other Benbrook research was also cited this week by an activist report by the Center for Biological Diversity alleging the herbicide dicamba is threatening monarch butterfly populations. An ag economist, Benbrook's professed expertise extends well beyond his areas of academic study to include consulting and reporting on hot-button food issues ranging from alleged endocrine-disrupting chemical health risks to supposed nutritional benefits of organic foods.

Called one of the top go-to paid advocates for the organic marketing industry, anti-GMO activist groups and pesticide litigators - learn more about Benbrook HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Abdulrazak Ibrahim: Nigeria should host national workshop to consider potential of CRISPR use in food production

Chuck Dinerstein: By spreading Kristof's claims on chemicals, New York Times engages in "hyperbole at the price of scientific honesty"

USAID: Blight-resistant potato could make "dramatic impact" on lives of Bangladesh farmers

Terry Anderson and Henry Miller: Organic farming a prime example of inetticient water use in California

Omri Ben-Shahar: Italian analysis of GMO corn benefits should be "conclusive" science needed to end public debate

Australian geneticist Fahad Ali: "We need gene technology on our side" so it can save lives

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What's Trending?

European Food Safety Authority neonic risk assessments drive call for ban from NGOs and lawmakers

Monsanto faces key hearing in lawsuit over whether glyphosate causes cancer

Ghana activists meet with members of Parliament to raise opposition to GMOs

U.S. EPA opens 60-day comment period on draft assessments of glyphosate

European Parliament approves measures to boost beekeeping industry, endorses request for European Commission to propose neonic ban

Calendar highlights

March 5-7	March 5-9	March 6-7
World Congress on Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture (Paris)	CBD Workshop on Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for Francophone Africa	Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Congress
March 7-8	**March 7-11**	**March 14**
Plenary meeting of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms	Natural Products Expo West	South by Southwest festival session - "GMO 2.0: Beyond Monsanto"

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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 civil society groups announcing opposition to Mexico's biodiversity law. Food Sovereignty Ghana officials met with Parliament members to discuss the country's plant breeder's bill and GMOs.

- Mexico's *La Jornada* reported dozens of NGOs called for Mexican legislators to oppose the proposed biodiversity law. They claimed the proposal aims to "privatize the country's biological wealth and the ancestral knowledge of the native peoples." They also objected because indigenous groups were not consulted regarding the law. **See more**
- Representatives from Food Sovereignty Ghana and other NGOs met with Parliament members to state their positions against GMOs and to urge legislators to see that Ghana's biodiversity is not compromised by the bill. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: AgriNews reports on Agri-Trend Group founder and CEO Robert Saik's belief that the non-science movement is today's greatest threat to global food security, Saik laments that several GM technologies are unavailable to farmers who need them

News: AgriPulse amplifies Iowa study findings that Russian state media, Facebook and Twitter trolls contributed to U.S. anti-GMO movement and linked to 2016 election manipulation efforts

Commentary: Pesticide Action Network debunks eight myths about GMOs, pesticides including pesticides needed to feed the world, dose makes the poison, pesticides aren't dangerous, GMOs reduce reliance on pesticides

Commentary: EcoWatch amplifies Center for Biological Diversity report warning expanded use of dicamba will put more than 60 million acres of monarch habitat at risk by 2019

News: High Plains Journal reports on Purdue University ag economist Jayson Lusk's recent speech at the 2018 Bayer AgVocacy Forum, Lusk believes support for GMO labeling stems from a disconnect of the demographics

Commentary: Terry Anderson and Henry Miller of Stanford's Hoover Institution write for Manhattan Institute for Policy Research's City Journal, they support allowing markets to allocate water, and taxes on inefficient water use, such as organic production

Commentary: Boulder Daily Camera writer questions county's use of glyphosate after officials passed anti-GMO regulations that demonized glyphosate, oversimplified challenges of complex industry

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ugandan farmer Emma Naluyima writes for Daily Monitor, voices concern that govt may add restrictions on GMOs, notes that she would embrace GMOs that can solve a particular challenge on her farm, criticizes spread of misinformation

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO Food Sovereignty Ghana reports meeting with Ghana Parliament members, claims Ghana can protect plant breeding rights without enacting Plant Breeders Bill, claims bill will facilitate biopiracy of country's plants

Commentary: Farmer and science journalist Michael J. Ssali writes for Uganda's Daily Monitor, amplifies articles calling to genetically modify coffee to adapt to climate change and prevent its extinction, help poor farmers in coffee-growing countries

News: Zimbabwe news site reports government banned less expensive GM maize imports to protect small-scale millers; grain miller reports saving $4.5 million on foreign currency

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Swarajya reports China has built $150 billion lead over India in textile exports, analyzes how China rose to become market leader, points out India's cotton-based textile industry faced shortage of raw material until farmers began growing Bt cotton

Commentary: Pakistan Observer editorial calls on govt to take serious steps to achieve food security, emphasizing importance of boosting grain production to meet poultry feed needs, argues GMOs are key for safeguarding potential yields for a cheaper price

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Kristin Halvorsen and Ole Johan Borge of Norway's Biotechnology Council write for local news outlet, promoting the council's new guidance for assessing social benefits of GMOs, with hopes of improving predictability for applicants

News: Italy's Il Manifesto amplifies meta-analysis by Italian researchers that found GMO corn poses no risks to human, animal or environmental health, notes 75 percent of studies considered conducted in United States, cites doubts about their credibility, concerns about productivity and biodiversity

Commentary: Russia Today publishes list of Top 5 "most evil" corporations; Monsanto takes No. 1 spot; RT says Monsanto was first to develop GMO crops, herbicides used on them have killed millions of acres of crops, caused cancer, other health problems

Commentary: German NGO and La Via Campesina member opposes Bayer-Monsanto merger, claiming it would dominate the agricultural market and destroy fair competition

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM notes Poland tabled bill to reduce GM feed imports by requiring animal feed companies to get protein crops from EU members; points out bill contradicts recent draft law authorizing GM cultivation in Poland

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Roberto Garduno and Enrique Mendez write for Mexico's La Jornada, criticizing deputy Arturo Alvarez Angli's (PVEM) proposed approval of changes to biodiversity law without involving commissions of Indian Affairs and Climate Change

News: Argentine business news site reports Association of Soybean and Maize Producers in Brazil files lawsuit to nullify Monsanto's patent on GM soy Intacta seed

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian investment news site notes agricultural producer NuFarm developed omega-3-rich GM canola oil; notes testing is underway

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a new European campaign to pressure regulators to assess products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) as genetically modified organisms. Media outlets continued to respond to an Iowa study linking Russian media sites with anti-GMO activism.

- The anti-biotechnology umbrella organization Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei announced a new campaign and petition to urge Swiss regulators to include products of NBTs under existing GMO guidelines. In a news release, the group noted that gene-edited crops are already being commercialized in the U.S. and could end up in European food unless the products are subject to mandatory labeling and approvals. **See more**
- Media outlets continued to respond to an Iowa State University study that highlighted the role of Russian media outlets in spreading anti-GMO propaganda. *Bloomberg* linked the study to a report issued by the U.S. House of Representatives, which claimed that Russia used social media posts to undermine natural gas and fracking policies in the U.S. Several agricultural news sites amplified the article from *The Des Moines Register*, as did *The Scientist* and *Food Beast*. Activist news outlets such as *Natural Blaze* criticized the report. **See more**

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North America

News: The Scientist amplifies Iowa State University study finding Russian government-funded news websites publish more articles about GMOs than U.S. outlets, typically portray them in negative light; study co-author says turning U.S. public opinion against GMOs would hurt U.S. agriculture, help Russia

Commentary: Foodbeast blogger amplifies Iowa State University study suggesting Russian government-backed news websites spread "misinformation attacks" casting GMOs in overwhelmingly negative light, notes Russian attacks on U.S. GMO crops could help it steal market share

Commentary: Media watchdog site Accuracy in Media amplifies Iowa State University study finding Russians fund articles questioning safety of GMOs, links Carey Gillam and U.S. Right to Know to Russian influence, points out The Huffington Post published the most anti-GMO articles among U.S. outlets

Commentary: Natural Blaze's Brandon Turbeville criticizes mainstream media, Iowa State University study for blaming Russia for fanning anti-GMO sentiment in United States, quotes GMWatch's response to study, coverage by The Des Moines Register

Commentary: Purdue University ag economist Jayson Lusk promotes new paper co-authored by University of Florida's Brandon McFadden and Tufts' Norbert Wilson on consumer views on GMOs, finds safety concerns are related to perceptions of who benefits

Commentary: Foodbeast blogger discusses Bill Gates statement that he finds it "disappointing" some people perceive non-GMO foods as better than GMOs, expresses hope support for GMOs from Gates, Neil deGrasse Tyson and others may sway public opinion

Roundup: Agricultural news outlets reported on opening session of annual Pork Industry Forum in Kansas City, with panel on gene editing, University of Missouri scientist whose team developed GE pig resistant to PRRS virus

More North America items

Africa

News: GhanaWeb reports on former Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Ahmed Yakubu Alhassana's call for nationwide lecture to improve public understanding of GMOs, arguing that misinformation thrives when the public cannot understand complex scientific language

Commentary: Biologist writes piece in Medium calling on Nigeria to embrace CRISPR, saying technology could have "far-reaching consequence" in country's economy

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes new report, "A review of participatory plant breeding and lessons for African seed and food sovereignty movements," argues conventional breeding has created separation between farmers and breeders

More Africa items

Asia

News: USAID's Feed the Future reports on efforts by its Biotechnology Partnership to battle late blight through introduction of GE disease-resistant potato in Bangladesh, notes introduction of Bt eggplant in country two years ago has helped farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Swiss NGO Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei announces launch of petition as part of campaign, "No genetic engineering through the back door," urging Swiss Federal Council and Parliament to make new GE procedures such as CRISPR-Cas9 subject to Genetic Engineering Act

Interview: U.K.'s European Seed talks to officials of International Seed Federation about their views on new plant breeding techniques, whether and how they should be regulated in Europe, how to overcome regulatory divergence; ISF Secretary General Michael Keller warns against patchwork of regulations

Campaign: German NGO Aktion Agrar promotes petition asking German agriculture ministers to adopt different model of direct payments to farmers that would promote use of non-GE animal feed, less pesticide usage, fewer animals, soy moratorium in order to help prevent destruction of Amazon rainforest

Interview: Science and Development Network interviews Vandana Shiva following her recent speech at Bond conference in London, she explains how her study of physics influences her current work in promoting seed biodiversity

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Xinhua reports Mexican National Federation of Corn Farmer publicly calls on Mexican government to restrict corn imports under NAFTA, wants to create demand to grow market within country

Commentary: Mexico's La Prensa examines "latent danger" of GMO seeds, saying they are attributed to environmental damages and human health problems and have been banned in 170 countries

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food Navigator reports on GE-Free New Zealand's threat of taking legal action challenging Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and Minister for Food Safety's approval of Golden Rice, raising concerns about lack of safety data

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 significant U.S. media coverage of an Iowa study on the role of Russian-backed media outlets criticizing biotechnology. In Europe, anti-biotechnology activists promoted a legal opinion claiming that products developed through mutagenesis and new plant breeding techniques should be regulated as GMOs.

- Media outlets in the U.S. amplified a recent study from Iowa State University in which researchers identified the prominent role Russian-backed online news platforms played in spreading and amplifying anti-biotechnology messages. *Gizmodo* reported on the story, quoting Sustainable Pulse producer Henry Rowlands, who alleged that U.S. news outlets downplayed GMO risks because of powerful business interests. In *The Hill*, World Food Prize president Kenneth Quinn summarized an interaction with *Russia Today* and linked the issue to larger concerns about American democracy. **See more**
- European activists amplified a new statement from the anti-biotechnology NGO Testbiotech, which summarized a legal opinion from environmental lawyer and University of Bremen professor Ludwig Kraemer. Kraemer argued that the advocate general of the EU Court of Justice misinterpreted current GMO regulations when he recommended new methods of mutagenesis not be regulated as GMOs, highlighting the law's citation of a "long history of safety" in its initial exemption for mutagenesis-derived crops. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported that sources close to the EU competition commissioner said regulators were planning to approve Bayer's purchase of Monsanto following the latest concessions from Bayer. The article quoted a Friends of the Earth spokesperson on concerns about industry consolidation, and amplification from *RT* highlighted the "merger from hell" hashtag campaign against the deal. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: World Food Prize president Kenneth Quinn writes in The Hill that current Russian information warfare campaign has its roots in Vietnam War, says Russia's goal is "to exacerbate every political difference among Americans"; Quinn cites experience he had with RT host on GMOs

Commentary: Gizmodo's George Dvorsky examines Iowa State University study findings that Russia is attempting to sway U.S. public opinion against GMOs, highlights response from Henry Rowlands on Sustainable Pulse, believes Russia's actions are cause for alarm

News: MIT Technology Review reports on Iowa State University study finding that Russian funded news sites RT and Sputnik publish articles with "negative or distasteful" information about GMOs, some with fake conspiracy theories, highlights Russia's GMO ban

News: Business Insider reports on Bill Gates' recent assertion that GMOs are "perfectly healthy" during a Reddit AMA, a view supported by scientific consensus, highlights long history of genetic modification, and medical applications like insulin

News: Technology news outlets report on Bill Gates' recent Reddit AMA, he described GMO foods as "perfectly healthy," voiced disappointment that some people view non-GMO foods as better

More North America items

Africa

News: Reuters reports talks between Burkina Faso and Bayer on reintroduction of GM cotton are on hold pending Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, according to director of Sotifex cotton company, Wilfried Yameogo, who noted importance of addressing fiber length

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Prime Sarmiento of the Philippines' Business Mirror examines Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval of golden rice, highlights potential nutritional benefits, as well as concerns raised by Testbiotech, welcomes the current debate

News: Press Trust of India reports on RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch's call on gov't to remove royalty fee on Monsanto's Bollgard-II Bt cotton seeds, arguing that the technology has become ineffective at controlling pink bollworm

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters reports that Europe's antitrust regulator is set to approve Bayer's purchase of Monsanto, according to unnamed sources; report quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner critical of farming data monopolies

News release: Testbiotech announces publication of legal dossier by legal expert Ludwig Kraemer, examining EU Court of Justice advocate general's opinion on products of new breeding techniques, criticizes lack of distinction between GE and conventional breeding

Commentary: Italian NGO Il Salvagente opposes Parliament's Commission for Economic and Monetary Affairs' proposal to ban free-from labels such as "non-GMO" and "without palm oil," argues it goes against consumers' interests for more transparency

News release: Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) announces results of study on public opinion on GM foods, it found that half of U.S. and a quarter of Norwegian participants were willing to eat GM foods if they provided nutritional benefits

News: German consumer magazine Oko-Test reports health food provider Rapunzel starts online petition to oppose introduction of new GE techniques in country, calls for genome editing methods to be regulated and products clearly identified

Commentary: Member of German anti-GMO NGO coalition points out organic groups reject use of CRISPR to breed plants, but director of Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Switzerland praises CRISPR technique, complains Urs Niggli's opinion on CRISPR often cited in media over more representative voices

Announcement: Spanish government-owned public TV service promotes Feb. 28 program featuring Vandana Shiva, notes her book, "Who Really Feeds the World?", criticizes those who poison environment and humans, worsen climate change

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguay's La Diaria reports Municipality of Montevideo clarifies it was already mandatory to label transgenics, recent announcement means inspections to check compliance with labeling law begin in September, with no extensions; manual to be published giving details of label graphics required

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Veracruz State Agricultural Union of Corn Producers president Luis Angel Contreras Carrera's recent statement that Mexico is the world's fifth largest producer of corn and a top user of pesticides, he promoted use of biotech

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports on National Confederation of Agricultural Producers of Maize of Mexico's (CNPAMM) call for gov't strategy to rescue domestic corn production, voicing concern about high imports of transgenic corn from the U.S.

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 the European competition commissioner met with environmental activists critical of Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. The U.K.'s rural affairs regulator launched a public consultation on Britain's post-Brexit farming policy.

- European activists with WeMove.eu, Friends of the Earth Europe, SumOfUs, Aktion Agrar and MISERIOR met with European competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager today to discuss opposition to Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. Last-minute, international email campaigns for signatures against the merger warned that the reduced competition would harm biodiversity efforts and impact farmer livelihoods. In social media accounts of the meeting, the groups noted that over 1 million people had signed the campaigns. A separate Friends of the Earth Europe news release claimed that a majority of Europeans oppose the merger. **See more**

- The U.K. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs released its long-awaited consultation paper on British farming policies following the country's withdrawal from the European Union. Among other provisions, the department proposed redesigning farmer payments to reward technology adoption - including the use of plant biotechnology - in farming operations. Media reports on the announcement largely focused on the broader recommendation to link farmer payments to sustainable farming practices. **See more**

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North America

News: The Hill reports on Iowa State University study demonstrating Russia's attempts to sway U.S. public opinion against GMOs in effort to hurt U.S. ag interests, of seven news sites, U.S. versions of RT and Sputnik produced over 50 percent of GMO-related articles

News release: GMO Answers comments on report in The Des Moines Register that Iowa State University researchers find misinformation campaigns about GM crops ongoing, stem from various sources; spokesman says GMO Answers has posted answers by 200 independent experts to 1,500 questions about GMOs

Commentary: Cary Funk of Scientific American analyzes American Academy of Arts and Sciences report on public trust in science, emphasizes importance of seeing how people view science issues that connect with their lives, such as GM foods and vaccines

Commentary: Forbes writer Omri Ben-Shahar amplifies recent Italian meta-analysis demonstrating yield advantage and safety of GM corn for humans and the environment, believes the assessment is the kind of conclusive science needed to resolve a public policy debate

Video: Joseph Mercola touts his GMO Awareness Week campaign in YouTube video, interviews Organic Consumers Association Executive Director Ronnie Cummins, who says consumers are waking up to hazards of GMOs and toxic chemicals used with them

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana's Joy reports on Crop Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientist Charles Afriyie Debrah's statement that GM crops are safer than conventional ones because they undergo more safety testing

News: Ghana's Joy reports on Monsanto's assurance that problems associated with GM cotton in Burkina Faso will not be repeated in other African nations, Monsanto's Jonathan Jenkinson emphasized importance of continuous breeding program for improvements

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports Burkina Faso cotton farmers want to bring back GM varieties phased out by government in 2015 because of problems with short fibers; farmers say they lose money without Bt cotton because of the need for more applications of insecticides

Campaign: African Centre for Biosafety asks supporters to submit comments opposing application for commercial release of Dow-DuPont stacked GM maize during 30-day public consultation

More Africa items

Asia

News: United News of India reports political group called for reduction in Bt cotton trait fees, requiring Mahyco Monsanto Biotech Ltd. to pay compensation for crop losses to pink bollworm

News: Asia Times reports on debt burdens driving farmers to suicide in Punjab, highlights losses to Bt cotton crops due to their increased vulnerability to whitefly, also highlights criticisms of gov't debt relief packages

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: EU Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, announces meeting with SumOfUs, WeMove.EU, Friends of the Earth Europe, Misereor and Aktion Agrar to hear their views and receive signatures on Bayer-Monsanto deal

News release: Friends of the Earth Europe announces results of YouGov survey which found that 54 percent of EU citizens oppose the Bayer-Monsanto merger, released on same day that FOE and other NGOs met with Competition Commissioner Vestager

News: New Europe reports on EU Competition Commissioner's estimate that Bayer Monsanto decision will come in "first half" of 2018, concluding that April 5 deadline could be moved to June

News release: U.K. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs releases consultation advising post-Brexit shift from CAP direct payments to environmental management incentives, ag-tech investment; comment period open thru May 8

News: Farmers Weekly shares stakeholder responses to Defra farming consultation; Soil Association, animal groups welcome initiative while farm and labor groups voice skepticism

Commentary: Hilaire Picault of France's Detours examines recent Italian study on GMO safety, highlights French Institute for Nutrition's assessment that only some mycotoxins have acute toxicity, and at high doses, points to concerns raised by Greenpeace

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Oaxaca Digital reports on Democratic Revolution Party's (PRD) concerns about General Biodiversity Law, highlights opposition from Secretary of Sustainability of the National Executive

Committee, who argued it will put natural resources into the hands of transnational companies

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports on Citizens Coalition against the General Biodiversity Law, composed of nearly 100 organizations, it shared a list of several objections to the law, including claim that it will lead to privatization of indigenous genetic resources

News: Uruguay's Montevideo Portal reports municipal officials to present mandatory labeling for all transgenic products, establishing all foods that contain GMOs must be identified by label with letter T, compliance to begin six months after regulation takes effect

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The West Australian reports second year of GM cotton trials is under way in the Ord Valley, in joint effort by CSIRO principal research agronomist Stephen Yeates and Ceres Farms, trials have been expanded from 3.7 to 16 hectares to compare results on a larger scale

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that an Indian state was meeting with producers to assess next year's Bt cotton seed availability. In Mexico, controversy over a draft biodiversity law spiked on news that the Chamber of Deputies was expected to review the legislation.

- *The Times of India* reported that the state of Maharashtra held a meeting of seed producers today to address concerns over the availability of Bt cotton seeds for the upcoming season. The article noted that seed producers had previously threatened not to produce and sell the Bt trait seeds if the state forced them to pay compensation to farmers for last year's Bt cotton failures. **See more**
- Activists and political leaders in Mexico spoke out against the proposed General Law on Biodviersity, anticipating the measure's approval by the Chamber of Deputies this week. Representatives from the National Action Party (PAN) and Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) said the current measure did not do enough to maintain protections on natural environments. Activists with Greenpeace, the Henrich Böll Foundation and others warned that the current law would allow international actors to exploit indigenous groups and national genetic resources. **See more**
- Iowa State University researchers, presenting at a local biotechnology conference, reported that Russian-backed media were part of a concerted effort to raise concerns over U.S. agricultural practices and establish Russian agriculture as an environmentally friendly alternative. Examining news stories on biotechnology, the researchers found that Russia-backed websites *Russia Today* and *Sputnik* were responsible for nearly 50 percent of negative GMO stories during the timeframe analyzed. *The Des Moines Register* highlighted the scientists' call for consumers to seek out credible sources for information on biotechnology. **See more**
- Brazil's Senate opened a public consultation period on proposed changes to the country's GMO labeling requirements, which would not require a GMO label on products where GM ingredients make up less than 1 percent of the total. Previous GMO requirements had not specified a minimum presence threshold, thus requiring a label on any GMO presence. The Senate's public response system as of Feb. 26 stood at nearly 2 to 1 against the changes. **See more**

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North America

News: Des Moines Register reports on Iowa State University study linking anti-GMO articles to Russian sites RT and Sputnik, indicating that Russia is attempting to hurt U.S. ag interests by spreading material questioning GMO safety

Commentary: Steven Cerier writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines ways in which anti-GMO movement is attempting to target new breeding techniques, points out similarities to conventional crops, explains dangers of rejecting them

Commentary: Food and Farm Discussion Lab posts column by University of Kentucky Extension professor arguing genetic engineering less disruptive to plants than conventional breeding, pointing to strategy of

"knocking out" plant susceptibility genes that benefit microorganisms, using genome editing

News release: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory promotes work by its scientists using genetic modification to triple number of grains produced by sorghum plant, generating more flowers and seeds by lowering level of key hormone, pointing way for strategy to increase yield of sorghum, other staple grain crops

News release: Cargill announces collaboration with Precision BioSciences to use its genome-editing technology to further reduce saturated fat levels in canola oil, with product intended for quick-service restaurants and food ingredients industries; Cargill aims to offer lowest fat levels on specialty oils market

Commentary: Canadian Council on Food Safety and Health predicts debate over genetic modification of food crops likely to intensify as U.S. FDA declares new GM rice from China to be safe, notes Huahui 1 rice engineered to resist insect pests, cites unpopularity of GMO crops with Chinese consumers

News: Successful Farming reports on Bayer's recent AgVocacy Forum where crop research and development head Adrian Percy voiced excitement at current ag investments, highlights developments in CRISPR, and confidence in Bayer-Monsanto deal

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Maharashtra gov't convening of seed producers' associations meeting, to discuss availability of seeds for next growing season, Kalyani Goswami of National Seed Association of India argued Monsanto should pay for damage to Bt cotton

Commentary: M M Sharma of Vaish Associates, Advocates writes blog post for India's Economic Times, calls on Competition Commission of India (CCI) to block Bayer-Monsanto deal, highlights link between Monsanto cotton and farmer suicides

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Klaus Taschwer of Austria's Der Standard amplifies Italian meta-analysis demonstrating benefits and safety of GM corn, notes that while the researchers' conclusions clearly demonstrate superiority of GM corn, it will not change Austria's position

Commentary: Italy's "Doctor Wine," Daniele Cernilli, amplifies findings of Italian meta-analysis on safety of GM maize, anticipates responses from anti-GMO groups Slow Food and Coldiretti, criticizes pre-established conclusions and anti-scientific ideology

News: French health news outlet reports on Italian meta-analysis in Scientific Reports which found that GM maize is harmless in addition to having health and economic benefit of reduced mycotoxin content, provides summary of Seralini's rat study for context

Report: European Food Safety Authority publishes assessment of Monsanto herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant GM maize variety for renewal of authorization, taking new data into consideration, EFSA finds no evidence of new hazards

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Editorial for Mexico's La Jornada amplifies various NGOs' concerns that Chamber of Deputies' Environment and Natural Resources Committee intends to approve General Biodiversity Law, in spite of violations of indigenous rights and threats to ecosystems

News: Mexico's 20 Minutos reports on National Action Party (PAN) and Party of the Democratic Revolution's (PRD) proposed changes to General Law of Biodiversity, arguing that it is currently "incompatible with the protection of the environment"

News: Agencia EFE reports an alliance of peasant, indigenous and civil organizations, and academics and Mexican citizens, launches alert against General Law of Biodiversity, arguing it will create a legal vacuum that can be exploited by biotech industry and others

Announcement: Brazil's Senate Agency calls for public comment on bill to exempt food labels from reporting GM content below one percent, highlights Sen. Vanessa Grazziotin's call for adherence to precautionary principle, and Sen. Cidinho Santos' comments about importance of establishing a tolerance

Commentary: Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo professor Leopoldo Chassin Ramirez writes for local news outlet, criticizes Francisco Bolivar Zapata's new book on benefits of biotech, wishes scientists would adopt a "less forceful position and give space to the precautionary principle"

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian geneticist Fahad Ali writes for The Age, explains importance of embracing new gene editing technologies like CRISPR, dispels myths about using gene editing to create genetically "superior" humans

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 26, 2018
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:12:30 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

The verdict is in: Italian researchers reviewed the usage of genetically modified corn over more than 20 years, concluding that the crop provides clear yield and health benefits over the non-GM alternative. The findings are highlighted on this week's newsletter in pieces by Paul McDivitt, Jakob Owens and Mark Lynas. *Newsweek* also published an article on the study.

Among other items, researchers Alison Van Eenennaam and Nina Fedoroff call for changes to U.S. biotechnology regulations, and officials from Bayer and CropLife International - respectively - warn about efforts in Europe to restrict neonics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals based on politics instead of science.

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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: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa is promoting a meta-analysis of 50 case studies from 22 African countries that claims their view of technology-eschewing agroecology can help meet United Nations sustainable development goals. The NGO's

Stories Worth Sharing

Paul McDivitt: Two decades of data prove GM corn increases yields and provides health benefits

Jakob Owens: Italian research should put rumors to rest about benefits of GM corn

Alison Van Eenennaam/Nina Fedoroff: Proven safe, biotechnology should be regulated "from common sense instead of fear"

Mark Lynas: Italian analysis gives "powerful scientific evidence" that GM maize is inherently safer and more productive

David Zaruk: Pesticides are a "valuable precautionary tool" in sustainable agriculture

Howard Minigh: If politics trump science on EU EDC regulations, it will have serious impact on trade and discourage innovation

Ross Pomeroy: Like papayas and bananas before, genetic engineering should be used to save coffee

French magazine: Activists skew facts in claiming EU pesticide authorization tests are linked to industry

Bill Wirtz: Tangled web of intermingled EU activist groups has "complicated relationship with the truth"

study claims agroecology has benefits for yields, food security, nutrition, health, education, poverty reduction, environmental regeneration and climate resilience without the use of modern crop protection and biotechnology tools.

It's the latest move from the pan-African, anti-GMO activist group that has joined with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and GRAIN to block biofortified foods and campaign for agroecology instead.

LEARN MORE about AFSA.

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Martin Gruss: "No provably positive benefits for bees" from EU neonic ban

Lominda Afredaru: Prospects of gene editing in Uganda are exciting

William Reville: No "single unique culprit" for bee colony collapse, extensive use of honeybees could damage environment

University of Minnesota grad students ask U.S. government to update biotechnology regulations to allow more efficient research

Geoffrey Kabat: Campaigns against glyphosate, coffee, BPA take isolated findings out of scientific context to scare the public

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament pressured to approve anti-neonic resolution / EFSA to release neonic risk assessments

Mexican Academy of Sciences Biotechnology Committee member's new book details benefits of GMOs

Monsanto subpoenas documents from NGO Avaaz about glyphosate, IARC

Generations Futures report claims 75 percent of French produce is contaminated with pesticides

Quebec government to resfrict usage of neonics, atrazine, chlorpyrifos

Calendar highlights

February 27	February 28	February 28
Academie Royale de Belgique lecture on EDCs	Greens-led discussion on modern agriculture challenges (Germany)	European Food Safety Authority releases neonic risk assessments
March 3	**March 5-7**	**March 5-9**
University of California-Davis bee symposium	World Congress on Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture (Paris)	CBD Workshop on Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for Francophone Africa

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Feb. 23-25, 2018
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 10 58:45 PM

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 Italy's environmental ministry holding a conference on new breeding techniques. A book touting biotech crops was released in Mexico, receiving widespread attention.

- Several Italian ministries, the National Committee for Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences and Rome's Ministry of the Environment hosted a conference on new breeding techniques in Rome on Thursday. The Ministry of the Environment announced the event "represented a moment of fruitful exchange between the scientific community, administrations and stakeholders" on the European Union's regulatory framework. **See more**
- Mexican news sites widely reported the release of Francisco Bolivar Zapata's book that advocates the use of GM crops. One columnist wrote that while public opinion is polarized, GM crops are safe "beyond a reasonable doubt." He also said the idea that GMOs threaten native corn has been disproven since the indigenous crops have been grown alongside hybrid corn since the 1960s. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Los Angeles news source op-ed discusses "abusive" California Clean Environment Initiative, notes proposed ballot measure's opposition to GM food, attempt to create new class of legal violations called "toxic trespass," which would occur when pollen of GMOs impinged on another's land, air or water

News: Reuters reports Mexico bought 10 times more corn from Brazil in 2017 than previous year amid concern NAFTA talks could disrupt U.S. supplies; U.S. farmers, food processors, grain traders trying to protect more than $19 billion in sales to Mexican buyers of corn, soybeans, dairy, poultry

Commentary: Ross Pomeroy of Real Clear Science supports genetic modification of coffee to make it more resistant to coffee rust, which is worsening with climate change, highlights success of GM papaya in Hawaii, worries about consumer opposition

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science writer says Italian GMO meta-analysis adds to research showing GM crops boost yields, highlights GMOs on the market and in development that deliver benefits to farmers, environment consumers

Commentary: Zoe Williams of The Guardian writes critical review of Nassim Nicholas Taleb's latest book, "Skin in the Game," points out flawed logic in section hypothesizing that one family member switching to non-GMO food will impact the whole neighborhood

News: The Cornell Daily Sun reports a Cornell-led project awarded $35 million to research and promote cassava use in sub-Saharan Africa by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.K. government; funding to support the Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project for five years in its second phase

More North America items

Africa

News: African news site reports civil society groups hold press briefing to oppose GMOs, ask to consider indigenous seeds over GM seed; activist claims Ugandan biosafety bill doesn't have needed safeguards

Commentary: Patrick Jaramogi of Uganda's The Investigator examines "unknown dirty secrets" about GMOs, claims Monsanto spent millions of dollars to get Uganda's biosafety bill passed, amplifies claims about GMOs by Jeffrey Smith

News: African news source details fall armyworm's impact in Zaka corn output, emphasizing pests' resistance to chemicals

News: Tanzania's Daily News reports funding from Gates Foundation to help Cornell University expand international efforts to deliver improved cassava varieties to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa; cassava genomic information now publicly accessible on open database, researchers worldwide comparing results

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Natural News claims US FDA approves China's GM rice without independent testing, notes China will not commercialize crop at home, says Seralini rat study showed real effects of GM crops

Commentary: Editorial in India's Financial Express notes problems of weed resistance and pink bollworm attack associated with spread of illegal Bt cotton are a result of gov't policies against Monsanto, and are in spite of Monsanto's warnings

Commentary: Writing for Countercurrents, anti-violence activist Robert Burrowes writes about numerous types of pollution, including agricultural runoff in oceans, dangers of pesticides, GMOs to human health, environment

News: Pakistan Today reports lack of understanding about agricultural technology impeding adoption of new advances in field; chairman of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council says media needs to carry pro-technology message to farmers, policymakers

More Asia items

Europe

News: Vermont's Rutland Herald reports on University of Vermont researcher Eric von Wettberg's work using traditional breeding methods to develop more stress-resistant chickpeas, he notes that India wants to avoid use of GM chickpeas, as its main export market for them is Europe

Commentary: Nico Catalano of Italy's Il Sud Est criticizes study demonstrating benefits and safety of GM corn, argues it ignores larger questions of agroindustry control of the food system, monocultures, and widespread pesticide use associated with Green Revolution

Commentary: France MEP reaffirms France's National Front opposition EU-Mercosur trade deal, claiming it is death to country's ag model, threatens farmer viability, lowers EU food standards

Commentary: U.K. grocery news site columnist amplifies BBC program on divide over GM animals, noting GMO opposition has led AquaBounty to not label GM salmon out of fear customers would be unfairly attacked

Commentary: Italy environmental ministry conference on NBTS it co-organized with country's biosafety committee represented productive exchange between science community, administration, NGOs on EU framework

News: Italy's Edmund Mach Foundation announces its presentation of research on new genetic improvement techniques applied to apple trees, with goal of making the fruit more disease-resistant,

thereby reducing chemical inputs

News release: Italy's Council for research in agriculture and analysis of the agrarian economy (CREA) announces meeting on February 21 to discuss use of modern biotech, including new breeding techniques, for producing more food in a sustainable way

More Europe items

Latin America

Event: Nicaraguan NGO Alliance Seeds of Identity announces Feb. 20 forum to raise awareness of GMOs' "risk for agriculture" in the country; claims transgenics threaten human health, the environment, family farming

News: Brazilian news agency reports on progress of bill in National Congress that opponents say would weaken GM controls, including GM labeling requirements; Greenpeace official claims scientific community has not reached consensus on safety of GMOs for human health and environment

News: Reuters reports Mexico bought 10 times more corn from Brazil in 2017 than previous year amid concern NAFTA talks could disrupt U.S. supplies; U.S. farmers, food processors, grain traders trying to protect more than $19 billion in sales to Mexican buyers of corn, soybeans, dairy, poultry

News: Agencia EFE reports on Mexican Academy of Sciences Biotechnology Committee member Francisco Bolivar Zapata's new book on benefits of GMOs, at a recent presentation of the book, he pointed to 20 years of safe use

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free NZ announces it is considering legal appeal to reverse decision on Golden Rice approval by FSANZ and Food Safety minister; claims studies done by Dow and Syngenta are unpublished, unreliable

Commentary: Friends of the Earth (FOE) says Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and University of Adelaide scientists are part of US military funded global network researching gene drives, and intend to use technique against invasive rodents; FOE warns of "potentially catastrophic ecological consequences"

Commentary:University of Sydney's Isobel Ronai and Macquarie University postdoctoral research fellow Kate Lynch write for The Conversation, they argue proposed changes to Australia's biotech regulations will increase oversight of new technologies like CRISPR

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 9:04:17 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 reports that French farming groups staged several protests against a proposed trade deal between the EU and Mercosur countries. Activists in Europe, Australia and Asia protested the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) approval of a genetically modified rice with increased vitamin A content.

- French news outlets reported that farmers' groups were protesting a proposed EU-Mercosur trade deal, following the Tuesday resumption of negotiations in Asuncion, Paraguay. The protests, which took place in several agricultural towns, highlighted farmers' warnings that competition from these countries would undermine French efforts to create a high-quality, environmentally friendly farming sector. Separately, European grains and sugar trade groups warned the deal would promote unfair competition for European growers. **See more**
- The FSANZ approval of foods derived from genetically modified "Golden Rice" was published in the country's Gazette, marking the decision's official start date. Apparently anticipating this publication, activist groups MASIPAG, GRAIN and the Stop Golden Rice! Network criticized the approval. The groups cited an analysis from Testbiotech, which claimed that consumers would need to eat unrealistic quantities of rice to gain nutritional benefits. **See more**

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North America

News: Iowa newspaper reports on speech by Monsanto's Robert T. Fraley, known as "father of agricultural biotechnology," at local ag conference; Fraley says Monsanto's research facilities in Iowa part of world's most sophisticated gene sequencing and mapping, predicts GE tools will transform ag

News: Legal site reports New York federal judge dismisses GMO labeling class action suit against Dannon Company for labeling its products "natural"; notes current federal law does not require that end products from animals fed with GMO feed be labeled as "GMO"

News: Business Insider reports U.S. Cattlemen's Association files petition with USDA arguing meat substitutes grown in labs using animal cells shouldn't be labeled as "meat" because such products don't come from animals, warning that labeling cultured products as "meat" would confuse consumers

Campaign: U.S. Right to Know solicits donations to fund investigations into food and chemical companies, highlights its assessments against Monsanto's alleged involvement in Henry Miller's recent Newsweek piece, and The Atlantic's partnership with DowDuPont

News release: Vigilance OGM promotes its participation in launch of "Modified" documentary, noting films debut Feb. 27, attacks Canadian government's inaction, objection to GMO labeling

News release: Avaaz responds to 168-page subpoena demanding all communications regarding Monsanto or glyphosate, Avaaz Deputy Director Emma Ruby-Sachs accuses Monsanto of corporate bullying and violating Avaaz's First Amendment rights

Commentary: EcoWatch report highlights Monsanto's subpoena of Avaaz communications regarding glyphosate; Avaaz expresses concern scope of subpoena would include names, email addresses of anti-Monsanto petitioners

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Writing for Global Farmer Network, Zimbabwe farmer says recent attendance at FAO meeting revealed need for farmers to learn about new technologies, attend events to lobby for ag tech/GMOs to move from lab to the field

News: Zimbabwe's Financial Gazette reports Oil Expressers Association chairman, Busisa Moyo, calls on gov't to review its ban on GM soybean production, noting import costs could be significantly reduced by adopting GM soy in local production

Commentary: Ugandan science journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, recounts her recent visit to National Agriculture Crops Resources Research Institute in Namulonge, highlights exciting African advances in gene editing research

News: Black Star News reports on Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)-Uganda chair Mario Munguaciel's call on Ugandan President Museveni not to sign the biosafety bill, emphasizing importance of Ugandan control of seeds

Commentary: Food Tank reports on ongoing fall armyworm threat in Africa, highlighting FAO's most recent early warning bulletin, FAO is implementing technical cooperation projects in several countries, focus areas include eliminating highly hazardous pesticides

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogs about work at Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, African research facilities to genetically engineer cassava to resist two viral diseases common in Africa, as well as to enhance nutritional value of cassava

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports on U.S. efforts to increase ag exports to India, U.S. Agriculture Under Secretary Ted McKinney called on India to relax its rules on imports of GM crop-based products, he pointed to success of GM cotton in India

News: India's Economic Times reports on USDA under-secretary, Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney's recent promotion of allowing imports of U.S. GM soybean meal, he highlighted benefits of biotech, noting importance of GM cotton for India

News: Indian news site reports West Bengal firm Keventer Agro Ltd. to provide high-yielding, GE banana tree saplings to farmers in Bihar

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Confederation of the Maize Production reasserts opposition to any corn or ethanol concessions in EU-Mercosur trade talks, says Brazil, Argentina already have competitive advantage to use GMOs, atrazine, neonics that European farmers are denied

News: French news site reports farmers demonstrate in Bar-le-Duc against possible trade deal between EU and Mercosur countries, assert deal would bring unfair competition from South American farmers that use atrazine, GMOs, hormones in beef

News: Franceinfo reports on Vandana Shiva's recent call for an ecological revolution against GMOs while

promoting her new book in Marseille, "The Virtuous Circle," co-written with Nicolas Hulot, she also accused Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta of ecological crimes

Announcement: EU Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety issues motion for resolution rejecting EU Commission draft decision for placing on the market a Dow AgroSciences GM maize variety, noting concerns about glufosinate and Bt toxin

Announcement: EU Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety issues motion for resolution rejecting EU Commission draft decision for placing on the market a Monsanto stacked-trait GM maize variety, noting concerns about glyphosate and Bt toxin

Announcement: Rothamsted Research announces field trial for GM camelina; crop will produce omega-3 normally found only in fish oil, also will have enhanced plant architecture, photosynthesis capability

Interview: European Seed interviews Teresa Babuscio, Secretary General of grain and cereal trade association COCERAL, on debate surrounding products of new breeding techniques, she notes regulating them as GMOs would keep smaller companies out

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports on confirmation by farmers' group Argentine Rural Society and the Argentine Seed Producers Association, which represents Monsanto, of agreement that farmers will pay perpetual royalties to replant GM seeds, ending a long dispute

News: Mexican news site examines risks of transgenic and gene-edited foods, quotes Center for Research and Advanced Studies professor who confirms risks are there, but end products are thoroughly studied, found risk-free, and no health hazards reported in 20 years

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand announces publication of Amendment 177 to Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, making Food Standards variations for foods derived from Provitamin A GM rice and GM omega-3 canola

News release: GRAIN and Stop Golden Rice! Network issue call for solidarity against Golden Rice commercialization in Bangladesh and the Philippines, highlighting several organizations' opposition to Food Standards Australia New Zealand's approval

Commentary: Prime Sarmiento of Science and Development Network examines Testbiotech report claiming that Food Standards Australia New Zealand approval of Golden Rice does not sufficiently prove its safety, highlights FSANZ's previous assurances

News: Successful Farming reports on Australian Office of Gene Technology Regulator's proposal to deregulate products of gene editing, Clovis Palmer of Burnet Institute in Melbourne argues the technology is still in its infancy and needs heavy scrutiny

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9 02:16 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included continued NGO promotion of a lawsuit asking the Mexican government to more strictly enforce biosafety procedures. In France, *Le Monde* warned that the country's GMO ban had been compromised by a legal loophole. An Italian study on GM maize safety continued to generate widespread response.

- Advocacy groups organized under Unidos Por la Selva Maya continued to criticize weak federal enforcement of biosafety measures, pointing to the widespread use of illegal GM soy in the Yucatan Peninsula. Speaking with *Regeneracion*, lawyers with the campaign argued that investigators should punish farmers and should consider the culpability of seed developers and sellers. The interview followed Greenpeace's Friday announcement that it had filed a lawsuit demanding tighter enforcement of a court-ordered GMO moratorium. **See more**
- French newspaper *Le Monde* reported on the fall 2017 discovery of genetically modified ingredients in some animal feeds, claiming that the discovery had caused a "panic" in tracing and disposing of the illegal products. Reporter Stéphane Mandard summarized the timeline of the discovery, noting that the European Commission was currently arbitrating a legal disagreement over whether GM feed additives manufactured in Europe for sale outside the EU should fall under existing GMO regulations. **See more**
- International stakeholders continued to respond to a European meta-analysis affirming the safety of GM maize. Agricultural researchers with the University of Milan blogged optimistically about widespread media coverage of the study, though they added that political change seemed unlikely. In the U.S., technology and science sites *Futurism* and *Discover* reported that the analysis adds to the weight of evidence on GMO safety. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Futurism's Jakob Owens amplifies recent Italian study in Scientific Reports demonstrating safety and other benefits of GM corn, notes while some questions may still be raised about use of GMOs in agriculture, this study puts some serious concerns to rest

Commentary: Canadian ag news outlet editor says demand for sustainable ag lends to costs and opportunities for farmers, notes efforts inside and outside ag to redefine sustainability as non-GMO poses challenge for farmers

News: Agri-Pulse feature highlights cross-stakeholder innovation in precision breeding market, noting lack of U.S. federal R&D investment, lower cost of commercialization opens door for bigger role for start-ups

Commentary: North America grain marketplace website co-founder says China decision to reject GMO shipments could be response to U.S. tariffs on China exports and wariness of GMOs; suggests growers consider tapping market for non-GMO

Video: Food science professor, former EPA advisor tell Alliance for Food and Farming chair

communication on conventional-organic debate should not undermine healthfulness, safety of conventional produce

Commentary: Civil Eats' Twilight Greenaway profiles Iowa organic farmer Ron Rosmann, Rosmann explained impact of biotech and Roundup on groundwater contamination, highlights ongoing nitrogen and phosphorous pollution

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Outlook reports on Union minister Parshottam Rupala's promotion of modern biotech at conference organized by Karunya University, pointing to benefits of increased crop yields, improved nutrition, and reduced pesticide use

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports on recent National Banana Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, initiatives to boost genetic engineering, molecular breeding and other aspects for biotic and abiotic stress management were discussed

Commentary: Salil Siriwat of Tilleke & Gibbins law firm provides analysis of Thai Ag Ministry's draft bill to update the Plant Variety Protection Act, to bring Thai law into compliance with UPOV 1991, notes Thai Farmers Association will likely review it

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Le Monde's Stephane Mandard argues distribution of animal feed made with illegal GM biomass demonstrates a loophole in EU legislation, as well as dysfunction in national and EU supervisory authorities, argues safety has not been established

News: Le Figaro reports on Le Monde story that illegal GMOs were found in animal feed, quotes Greenpeace France representative who criticized lack of food traceability

News: Italy's Corriere Della Sera reports on recent provincial assembly in Brescia, where Provincial Farmers Union (Upa) president Giovanni Garbelli called for abandoning populism and following path of science with regards to genetic engineering

Commentary: University of Milan-Disaa Ag History Professor Luigi Mariani and agronomist Alberto Guidorzi write for Italian blog, Agrarian Sciences, welcoming findings of Italian meta-analysis on GMO safety in Scientific Reports

News: Italian news outlet reports on AgriEthos Agri-Food System Research Center President Luigi Cerciello Renna's call for caution around GMOs, following Scientific Reports study on GMO safety, warning against being too influenced by a study based on statistics

Announcement: Academy of Sciences Switzerland's Genetic Research Forum announces new video and information on its Synthetic Biology topic portal, with focus on gene drives, it summarizes how gene drives work, potential applications, and ethical questions raised

Commentary: Niels Louwaars of Plantum writes for European Seed, examines Dutch parliament's position that products of cisgenesis and CRISPR-Cas9 should not be regulated as GMOs, notes breeding sector is confident it will help steer the EU regulatory debate

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Regeneracion reports on Colectivo Maya de los Chenes attorney Nayeli RamÃrez's accusation that the biosecurity system is ineffective, citing planting of over 23,000 hectares of GM soybeans in the Yucatan Peninsula without permits

News release: Mexican NGO Semillas De Vida (Seeds of Life) announces deputies from Commission of Indigenous Affairs and Climate Change will issue opinion on General Law on Biodiversity, hopes they will listen to people affected by the legislation

News: Germany's Top Agrar reports on Austrian beet farming associations' concerns that Mercosur free trade agreement will flood the EU market with GM sugar from Brazil, endangering sustainable European sugar beet production

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies several NGOs' opposition to Food Standards Australia New Zealand's approval of Golden Rice for human consumption, highlights statements from Testbiotech, MADGE, GeneEthics and Food Sovereignty Alliance

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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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 international screening of a documentary criticizing agribusiness investments in Argentina. Greenpeace criticized the role of conservative think tanks in developing a "shadow" free-trade deal between the U.S. and Britain.

- News outlets in Europe and South America highlighted the documentary "Viaje hacia los pueblos fumigados" (Journey to the Fumigated Peoples) in which director Fernando "Pino" Solanas claims Argentina's agricultural industry exposes local farmers to significant health problems. The film is being shown at the Berlin International Film Festival. Reviews in *Deutsche Welle* and the *Hollywood Reporter* specifically highlighted the role of GM soy in the documentary. **See more**
- Greenpeace issued a report claiming that U.K. and U.S. think tanks were conducting "shadow negotiations" in order to provide policymakers with a framework for a proposed free-trade deal. The announcement was based on an accidentally published policy document compiled by the U.K. think tank Initiative for Free Trade. The document noted that several think tanks - including the Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Institute of Economic Affairs and Civitas - had confirmed their participation.. **See more**
- Activists in Nicaragua launched the umbrella campaign Alianza Semillas de Identidad, highlighting the importance of native seed varieties and rejecting the potential use of transgenic varieties. Coordinating with the new campaign, *La Prensa* published the first articles in a projected six-part series on peasant agriculture and the need for agroecological food systems. **See more**
- U.S. agricultural news outlets amplified a Feb. 2 open letter from University of Minnesota graduate students who called on lawmakers to relax restrictions on using genetic modification for non-food products such as fiber and fuel. The students pointed out that current regulations require significant financial investments, limiting the possibilities for academic and non-commercial contributors to develop new crop technologies and varieties. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Paul McDivitt argues 21 years of data confirm GMO corn increases crop yields, provides substantial health benefits, rebuts anti-GMO claims from organic food advocates and environmentalists, cites new Italian meta-analysis comparing GMO corn to conventional varieties

Commentary: Writing for Cornell Alliance for Science, Mark Lynas says Italian meta-analysis finding GE corn improves yield, public health provides powerful scientific evidence that GE maize is safer than non-GE alternatives

News: Ag news site reports Italian researchers publish analysis finding GM corn increases yields, improves health compared to non-GE varieties, say results should move conversation on GM health concerns

News: AGDAILY reports Minnesota grad students letter asks U.S. representatives to deregulate GM crop approval process, argue process is too expensive, long for anyone besides big corporations

Commentary: Alison Van Eenennaam and Nina Fedoroff write for Des Moines Register, they point out flaws in current biotech regulation, which they note treats all new biotech products as hazardous, in spite of consensus on safety, call for product-based regulation

Commentary: Agweek runs op-ed by The Heartland Institute's Mischa Popoff arguing idea of GMO "contamination" of organic crops purely political, insisting organic activists want to sideline agricultural genetic engineering; calls on activists to stop creating controversy

Commentary: Convention on Biological Diversity thirteenth newsletter examines Joint Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, features articles promoting how partnership between different sectors promotes transparency, public participation in GMO decision-making

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology Country Coordinator, Rose Gidado's warning that Nigeria could lose $2 billion annually and its global position if it fails to commercialize GM crops undergoing field trials

News: Kenya's Daily Nation reports farmers fighting armyworm may get relief from Bt seeds that better resist worms, drought being developed by Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogs about Ugandan university students being stopped by police while marching to Parliament to protest proposed changes to nation's biosafety law; students say they fear some lawmakers want to impose strong penalties on scientists whose work is regulated by law

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Philippines' Business Mirror reports on Philippine Fiber Development Authority's (PhilFida) plans to plant at least 660 hectares of Bt cotton seeds from India this year, PhilFida's Edison RiÃ±en pointed to yield advantage and reduced pesticide use

News: Indian news outlet reports on upcoming agri-summit at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University on Feb. 23, Ag minister Om Prakash Dhankar noted topics will include crop diversification, machinery in climate smart agriculture and transgenic crops

News: Vietnamese news source reports long-term effects of GM food on human body and environment not researched systematically, remains unknown, points out many GM ag products available in United States, claims GE technology makes it easier to use pesticides, which have cumulative effect on humans

More Asia items

Europe

News: Greenpeace's Unearthed site reports accidentally published documents show secret plans by trans-Atlantic network of conservative think tanks to influence U.S.-U.K. trade negotiations, call for United Kingdom to shift away from EU's precautionary principle, clearing way for U.S. beef imports

Report: Activists post accidentally released document from U.K. think tank Initiative for Free Trade outlining shadow trade talks with United States and "ideal" Free Trade Agreement, claiming potential savings for U.K. consumers of agricultural produce, new market for U.S. beef producers

News: Deutsche Welle reports on screening of Argentine filmmaker Pino Solanas' new documentary, "Trip to the fumigated villages," at Berlinale film festival, the film depicts negative environmental and

health impacts of GM crops and associated pesticides

Announcement: Italy's Libertarian Movement posts letter from its CEO Giorgio Fidenato sent to government institutions noting study by independent scientists has confirmed no evidence GMO maize is harmful, clarifying he will sow biotech maize on his land in spring

Commentary: Slow Food's Gaetano Pascale reacts to recent Italian study demonstrating GMO safety, argues that GMOs threaten food sovereignty by promoting an agro-industrial model that seeks to control all aspects of a farmer's work

News release: The Greens - European Free Alliance list five reasons Bayer-Monsanto merger should be rejected, claiming it's bad for farmers, food diversity, the planet and human health, urge supporters to sign petition opposing merger

Announcement: U.K. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs calls for comment on any environmental risks of proposed release of GM camelina variety developed by Rothamsted Research, comments must be received by April 8, 2018

Commentary: Inf'OGM criticizes Polish MPs for passing amendment to GMO law allowing cultivation in certain areas, moving bill to Senate, says MP pledge to create GMO register is a 'doubtful justification'

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on recent screening of Pino Solanas' new documentary at Berlinale film festival, in a post-screening discussion, Solanas reiterated his claim that "science is also contaminated," voiced concern about Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto

Commentary: Nicaragua's La Prensa runs op-ed by NGO Alliance Seeds of Identity warning transgenic crops amount to war against ancestral Creole seeds, suggesting transnational companies could privatize seeds of Meso-American peoples

Campaign: Biodiversity Alliance petition lists 12 reasons to oppose Mercosur EU Free Trade Agreement, citing threats to food sovereignty, to be presented at Feb. 26 negotiation meeting in Paraguay

Audio: Friends of the Earth Latin America radio station speaks with Ecos del Saladillo member who promotes upcoming meeting of Fumigated Peoples (March 17-18), denounces heavy chemical use in ag, damage from agribusiness

Commentary: Elizabeth Bravo of Accion Ecologica writes for February issue of GRAIN's Biodiversidad magazine, criticizes WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, claims it is imposed on peasant growers, who operate on a smaller-scale

Commentary: Luis Miguel Barbosa of Mexico's El Sol De Puebla, calls for defense of food and nutrition sovereignty, believes it is necessary for Puebla to become a GM-free state

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food Navigator reports on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's consultation paper on regulating products of new breeding techniques, FSANZ CEO Mark Booth noted goal of the review is to consider a broad range of issues before changing the code

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder Events Bonus Eventus

database	calendar	community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 19, 2018
Date: Monday, February 19, 2018 4:15:44 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a *Real Clear Science* article by Ross Pomeroy that examines how just about anyone involved in the debate over food and agriculture policies can play the "shill" card and claim that anyone with an opposing viewpoint must have a conflict of interest. There's also a piece from Alex Berezow for the American Council on Science and Health that explains the unfair notion that anyone who works for industry must be dishonest.

We also highlight Mary Mangan's piece for Biofortified in which she lays out the false claims in "Whitewash," the book written by U.S. Right to Know activist and organic industry ally Carey Gillam.

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: Zen Honeycutt

Zen Honeycutt runs Moms Across America and lobbies with fellow activists Jeffrey Smith, Elena Sharoykina and Pamm Larry against GMOs, vaccines and pesticides around the globe. She is a co-litigant with the Organic Consumers Association suing General Mills and alleging products with the word "nature"

Stories Worth Sharing

Mary Mangan: Activist Carey Gillam's book should be titled "Hogwash" due to misinformation on glyphosate, IARC

Ross Pomeroy: Shill argument can be made against organic supporters and GMO advocates, but science is on the side of Team GMO

Adenle Ademola: Europeans must "stop playing fear-based politics" on GMO technology that can feed hungry Africans

David Zilberman: Agriculture key to global economic development; science-based regulations on biotechnology needed

Man Li: Research shows climate change could impact Chinese grain production; drought-tolerant crops could help

Paul McDivitt: Golden Rice moving closer to approval in Bangladesh and the Philippines as activists base opposition on old data

Rebecca Nesbit and Gia Aradottir: European neonic ban could have "unintended consequences," leaving agriculture and insects worse

Ruth Kava: Research into how genetic engineering could resolve genetic diversity issues should be accelerated

Michelle Miller: Technology providing agricultural solutions around the world

in them are misleading due to pesticide residues and GMOs.

LEARN MORE about Honeycutt.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Steven E. Cerier: Improved trees and grass among genetic engineering projects on hold due to anti-GMO backlash

Alex Berezow: Unreasonable to claim that honest people don't work for industry

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What's Trending?

U.S. Agency for International Development partners with Zimbabwe farmers in bid to stop spread of armyworms

Glyphosate opponent Eric Andrieu seen as potential chair of European Parliament committee examining pesticide review process

Environmental NGOs promote re-introduction of U.S. bill proposing to ban neonics

Italian meta-analysis finds GM maize improves yields with no evidence of health risks

Latest USDA report finds 99.5 percent of produce falls well below pesticide safety standards

Calendar highlights

February 20	February 22	February 24
Stockholm Chemicals Groups film screening - "Endocrination"	Tyrone Hayes lecture at University of Michigan	Martinique conference on pollution and EDCs
February 26-28	February 26-27	February 28
Microbiome AgBioTech Summit 2018	AsiaHub Summit USA	European Food Safety Authority releases neonic risk assessments

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued commentary in Italy regarding University of Pisa study findings that GM is safe. The Center for Studies for Change in the Mexican Field released its study on GMOs in Mexico. Syngenta reached a settlement with Archer Daniels Midland in a lawsuit regarding release of its GM corn variety before its approval by China.

- Stakeholders in Italy continued expressing opinions regarding the University of Pisa's study that found GM corm is safe to eat. Officials from the Coscioni agricultural association said the findings should spur a revision to Italy's GM cultivation ban, and at a minimum should allow GM corn planting. Opponents such as officials from the Coldiretti ag association argued Italy still should reject GMOs to maintain biodiversity and to protect its "Made in Italy" brand. **See more**
- Mexican news sites reported CECCAM released its study, "Thirty Years of Transgenics in Mexico." *La Jornada* reported that among the study's claims were that corporations seek to seize territory and bypass legislation in protected areas. *La Opinion* noted the study pointed out that while Bayer holds a large number of GMO permits in Mexico, Germany bans honey from the country due to contamination from GMOs. **See more**
- *Reuters* and other news media reported Syngenta reached a settlement with ADM over a lawsuit regarding Syngenta's release of its Agrisure Viptera variety of GM corn before it was approved for import by China. Cargill's lawsuit on the same incident still is active. **See more**

Due to the President's Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: The Guardian says right-wing groups plan to scrap EU safety standards on food, drugs in free trade agreement

News: CBC reports on Arctic apple creator Neal Carter's plans for "aggressive expansion" following positive U.S. test run, expecting to have over 1,200 hectares planted in the U.S. by 2022, although Canadian approval may take longer

News: Capital Press reports on Oregon State University forest biotech professor Steve Strauss' work with CRISPR, highlights work to use CRISPR to replace gene sequences rather than just to knock-out genes, Strauss points to public acceptance as a challenge

News: Agri-Pulse reports on challenges in gaining consumer acceptance of gene editing, highlights New Yorker science writer Michael Specter's emphasis on importance of connecting with consumers on things they care about, highlights power of misinformation

Commentary: CounterPunch runs Colin Todhunter piece updating Steven Druker's 2015 challenge to U.K.'s Royal Society to justify its support of GM crops, arguing group has misrepresented case for GMOs,

engaged in disinformation campaign; piece also amplifies similar criticisms by environmentalist Rosemary Mason

Commentary: Nick Meyer of March Against Monsanto amplifies GMWatch's analysis of claims that European Food Safety Authority approved Monsanto corn while ignoring links to kidney disease and bladder stones in lab rats, argues it adds to evidence of health risks

Commentary: Connor McKoy of Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies Agri-Pulse article on consumer acceptance of gene editing, notes consumer perceptions begin to change when they understand benefits of biotech for their own health

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Taiwo Hassan of Nigeria's New Telegraph examines feud between National Biosafety Management Agency and Health of Mother Earth Foundation over introducing GMOs in Nigeria, notes anti-GMO activists questions concern safety of the environment and food

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on recent Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Forum in Cairo, Egypt, where African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina noted Africa cannot afford to be left behind with advancing technologies like biotech

News: Kenyan news site reports farmers fear growing threat of fall armyworm's impact on corn yields; researchers say Bt and water-efficient maize resist the pest

Study: South African extension agents examine farmers' understanding of GM maize varieties, find misunderstandings about insecticide use and stewardship requirements

More Africa items

Asia

News: Bangkok Post reports Netherlands-based East-West Seed using CRISPR technology in effort to customize seed for Thailand, with potential of reducing seed production prices by factor of 10 within next 10 years, closing efficiency gap between Thai producers and Western counterparts

News: Iranian news sources report government drops effort to ban transgenic crops, commission gives approval for GMO imports; notes research on their development has sparked controversies in recent years, with opponents objecting on grounds of environmental concerns, food safety

Commentary: Shrikrishna Umrikar writes for India's Swarajya magazine, argues farmers and gov't are to blame for Bt cotton failures, notes farmers failed to plant sufficient refuge areas, calls on gov't to give farmers access to new technologies and invite Monsanto in

Study: Chinese, US researchers examine Chinese consumer acceptance of GM rice, find willingness to pay decreases significantly for GM varieties

More Asia items

Europe

News: Forbes Italia reports first study carried out in Italy that offers evidence about GM maize shows positive results, with higher yields, greater resistance to insects compared to conventional maize; study in Scientific Reports finds GMO maize not dangerous for environment or human health

News: Netherlands-based environmental news site reports Bangladesh Rice Research Institute researchers working to develop salt-resistant, GM crops as seawater levels rise due to climate change

News: Italian news site reports Slow Food's Carlo Petrini reacts with relief to University of Pisa study

showing GMOs to be safe, but says GM crops still cause biodiversity loss

News: Italian news site reports agriculture association Confagricoltura officials maintain that rejecting GMOs is wrong; says unjustified radicalization against scientific thought and research will mean missed opportunities, economic losses for Italy

News: U.K.-based farming news site notes that upon leaving EU, U.K. will need to set its own biotech policies, says GMOs can be green but they are not perceived that way, and says even if U.K. does not cultivate GM crops, they must be taken into account for trade

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Greenpeace Mexico announces filing of legal complaint along with Mayan communities, calling for investigation and sanctions on those who grow GMOs in the Yucatan Peninsula, pointing to lack of consultation with Mayan communities

News: Argentine news site notes Brazilian trial questions Monsanto's Intacta patent, questions if outcome could impact Argentina

Commentary: Costa Rican NGO Federacion Ecologista praises ecologist Dr. Jaime GarcÃa's presentation of over 32,000 signatures in favor of GMO food labeling to the authorities, emphasizing consumers' right to know

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Elizabeth Farrelly writes for Sydney Morning Herald, voices concerns about Australia's Gene Technology Regulator, Raj Bhula's recommendation for deregulation of products of gene editing, warns about potential negative impacts on human genome

News: Australian livestock news source reports supporters of ban on growing GM crops in South Australia say next step since it has been extended until 2025 is to change labeling laws so consumers can identify products with GM ingredients; agriculture minister cites importance of ban to state's farmers, market

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 meta-analysis from Italian researchers affirming the safety of GM maize currently on the market. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) announced a new public consultation on products of gene editing.

- Italian researchers with the University of Pisa and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna published a new meta-analysis finding that there has been no evidence of health risks over the last 20 years of GM maize commercialization. The findings, published in *Scientific Reports*, also noted that the crop offered yield improvements, reduced mycotoxin presence and added convenience for farmers. Italian media coverage of the report was extensive, with several news outlets interviewing pro-biotechnology farmer Giorgio Fidenato. **See more**
- FSANZ released a consultation paper on how to regulate food products developed through new plant breeding technologies (NBTs). The agency outlined various methods for modifying plant genes and asked for comment on issues such as whether a process-based regulatory approach makes sense for NBTs or whether using NBTs presents a greater risk than mutagenesis or other methods. Comments will be accepted through April 12. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico U.S. agriculture roundup includes briefs on re-introduction of bill proposing ban of neonics, NPR coverage of dicamba issues, EU review of Bayer-Monsanto deal

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health accuses Undark of hypocrisy in its criticism of Leaps Magazine, which is subsidized by Bayer, notes everyone is paid by somebody, including science journalists

Commentary: Molecular geneticist uses her FrankenFoodFacts blog to review health claims made by developers of GM pink pineapple and Innate potato, concludes those crops as safe as non-GMO counterparts, but using weak science to claim health benefits unnecessary

News release: University of Arizona promotes work by its plant scientist to develop ways of fighting blight spreading rapidly in West Africa, killing cacao trees, threatening world chocolate production; researchers working with USDA, candy giant Mars to develop molecular tools to spot infected trees early

More North America items

Africa

News release: IFPRI issues statement by its director for Africa, Ousmane Badiane, touting launch of African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard that highlight's continent's progress in adopting commitments of 2014 Malabo Declaration, recognizes five African countries as best performers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Chinese news site reports China's Ministry of Agriculture reports finding 7 companies conducting field trials violated GMO regulations, indicates violators were "severely dealt with"

News: Hindustan Times reports pink bollworm killed crops of 4.1 million farmers in Indian state of Maharashtra, previews 5-part series on the crisis

More Asia items

Europe

Study: Study in Scientific Reports by Italian researchers provides meta-analysis of 21 years of field data on impact of GM maize, authors note findings support its cultivation due to enhanced grain quality, reduction of mycotoxins and lack of impact on non-target organisms

News: Italian media outlets report on Italian study in Scientific Reports which found no evidence of health risks in GM maize in meta-analysis of 21 years of data, GM maize farmer Giorgio Fidenato reacted to the study, indicating plans to sue the Italian State

Commentary: Italian agricultural association notes universities find GM maize does not present health risk, association president says 20 years of GMO bans led to "massive imports and substantial losses for Italian farmers"

Commentary: Italian EU Parliament member argues that although University of Pisa study shows GM corn isn't harmful to humans does not mean it is good for humans; says study is "myopic" because it ignores fact that GMOs used with pesticides, which he claims are bad for the environment, farmers, consumers

Commentary: Norwegian Biotechnology Council members write news site op-ed, note rapidly advancing biotechnology requires "forward-looking laws" that provide flexibility and room for technological advancement

Event: France's Attac Sud-Essonne committee, Paysanne Confederation, GREEN association, and AMAPs Belle et la Blette and Ah ma Papille to host conference on "New GMOs" (March 2, 2018), with ag engineer and organic farmer Daniel Evain in Milly-la-ForÃªt

News release: City and Metropolis of Rennes, France, promotes upcoming conference with Vandana Shiva on Feb. 23, to promote her new book, "The virtuous circle", co-written with Nicolas Hulot, Nadege Noisette, elected delegate for supplies, welcomes the visit

News release: Germany's Association of Biology, Life Sciences and Biomedicine (VBIO eV) points to inconsistencies and goal contradictions in coalition agreement, especially in provisions regarding GE, notes promoting research is currently difficult in certain areas of biotech

Commentary: Europe's La Via Campesina NGO posts framework of stance opposing GM seeds, farmers' right to seeds, opposing new breeding techniques

Interview: BBC talks to CEO of AquaBounty about its introduction of GE salmon to Canadian market, why company decided against labeling product as GE; he blames "campaigns of intimidation" against retailers by groups opposed to GE salmon

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Nicaraguan news site reports NGO Alianza Seeds of Identity working to prevent GM seeds from being used in the country, say they intend to publicize GM seeds' risk if they are used

Campaign: Argentine environmental NGO calls on cities of Entre RÃos to enact GMO labeling, arguing recognizing which foods are GMOs will give consumers the power to reject them and chemicals used on them

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand announces public consultation on regulation of products of new breeding techniques, FSANZ will receive public comments through April 12, 2018

News: New Zealand's Science Media Centre posts expert opinion on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's consultation report on products of new breeding techniques, geneticist Peter Dearden noted getting regulation wrong could either stifle innovation or raise concern about risks

News: New Zealand Herald reports on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) release of consultation paper on regulation of products of new breeding techniques, Otago University geneticist Peter Dearden welcomed the agency's questions

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9 01:34 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 Indian state of Andhra Pradesh had announced a partial ban of glyphosate use in an attempt to stop the sale of herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds.

- In an effort to combat the sale of illegal, herbicide-tolerant cotton varieties, Andhra Pradesh announced that it would ban glyphosate use from June through November. A report in *The Times of India* quoted the Alliance for Holistic and Sustainable Agriculture (ASHA), which applauded the move and added that glyphosate had been linked to harmful effects. A separate *Reuters* report noted that the state had warned two local seed companies over their links to the illegal seed sales. **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: Big Think social media lead reports California Clean Environment initiative could mandate non-evidence-based science, including ban on GMOs and removing vaccine requirements, if approved by voters; petitioners trying to get enough signatures to put measure on November ballot

Commentary: Surgeon who blogs as "Orac" discusses California Clean Environment initiative, says it reads as if written by Mike Adams of Natural News, notes its claim that GMOs and "contaminants" cause cancer, autism, other diseases, rebuts claims by pointing to science-based evidence

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts final installment of four-part series; examines gene-editing promise for variety of future products, even as biotechnology opponents claim dangers to environment, human health; piece notes opposition to developments in synthetic biology, GE trees and flowers

Commentary: Real Clear Science highlights Team Organic vs. Team GMO debate, suggests ignoring the "shill gambit" and focus on evidence produced by independent scientists, noting consensus among WHO, AMA, AASA and others is that GM foods are safe

Commentary: Biology Fortified review by genomics scientist calls Carey Gillam's Whitewash "hogwash," highlights inaccuracies, misleading information

News: California news site reports Nevada County reports on "Monsanto 10" anti-Monsanto/GMO protest, arrest last spring at Monsanto's Yolo County office, charges downgraded last August, hearing rescheduled to Feb. 27

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan criticizes The Atlantic for providing DowDuPont a platform in upcoming forum, "Harvest: Transforming the Food We Eat," claims GMOs and pesticides promoted by DowDuPont damage health and environment

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports Andhra Pradesh bans glyphosate use in the state in attempt to curb spread of illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds, Kavita Kurruganti of Alliance for Holistic and Sustainable Agriculture (ASHA) welcomed the move

News: Reuters - India's Andhra Pradesh state issues notices alerting two seed firms that seeds they sold farmers may have contained unapproved Monsanto GM cotton strain, the companies deny charges

News: Hindustan Times reports on struggles of Vidarbha cotton farmer Usha Pandey and others who have suffered devastating losses to pink bollworm attack, farmers activist Kishore Tiwari called on gov't to get seed companies and insurance companies to provide compensation

News: Armenia news agency reports country's food safety agency to conduct large scale diet study that will include measurement of GMOs in food supply; results expected in 2019

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Spanish pro-biotech NGO Fundacion Antama reports remarks by Manuel Pineiro about CRISPR technologies, applications, uses, prospects and legislative challenges in EU; he says CRISPR brings cheaper, more accurate genomic editing tools to offer solutions for improving numerous crops

News: EurActiv reports on DowDuPont's European ag division head, Pierre Flye Sainte Marie's statement that the goal of the merger is to accelerate ag innovation, he highlighted exciting developments in new plant breeding techniques

Commentary: GMWatch claims EFSA dismissed research, Member State concerns that Monsanto Bt maize trait causes kidney disease, bladder stones in rats, prompting Member States to challenge agency endorsement of stacked traits, question EFSA credibility on GMO safety

Commentary: German online news source for organic industry amplifies comment by German Association of Natural Food Natural Products about EU advocate general's opinion that mutagenesis derived organisms not subject to GMO regulation; BNN says release of GMOs into environment "irresponsible"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Paraguay's La Nacion reports Monsanto Paraguay SA gets government approval for marketing Bt cotton in country; National Commission on Agricultural and Forestry Biosafety says no way to guarantee zero risk and absolute biosecurity, recommends release of cotton carrier of stacked events

Report: Monsanto Global issues Spanish-language 2018 edition of "Seedbed Future," social responsibility program that promotes ideas from non-profit groups seeking to improve nutrition in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; deadline for submitting project and documents is March 15

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on Grain Producers South Australia (GPSA) chairman Wade Dabinett's concerns that the region's GM ban will disadvantage SA growers, following recent approval of Nuseed's GM omega 3 canola

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces it has issued license to Syngenta Australia for commercial release of cotton genetically modified for insect resistance, authorized throughout country for GM cotton and its products in commerce, including human food, animal feed

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

Among today's global biotechnology developments, Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announced its approval of a new GM canola variety designed with increased omega-3 levels. U.S. news outlets criticized a new ballot initiative in California that would eliminate mandatory vaccinations in schools and ban GMOs.

- Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator approved a GM canola variety developed by Nuseed Pty Ltd, finding that the high omega-3 content crop posed "negligible" risks to people and the environment. The approval allows both cultivation and use of the crop in food products; however, the agency noted that regional cultivation restrictions could apply. Nuseed parent company Nufarm applauded the decision, highlighting its plans to market the crop in aquaculture and human nutrition. **See more**
- U.S. technology and science site *Ars Technica* and environmental magazine *Mother Jones* both criticized a California ballot initiative that recently received approval for signature gathering. *Ars Technica* reporter Beth Mole called the initiative a "conspiracy theorist's dream," citing its rejection of school vaccination requirements and water fluoridation and its proposed ban on GMOs. *Mother Jones* highlighted the scientific consensus on both vaccine and GMO safety. **See more**
- Indian news outlets reported the government of Andhra Pradesh has threatened to revoke seed licenses for Kaveri Seeds and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited, accusing the companies of illegally marketing an herbicide-tolerant cotton variety. A Nuziveedu representative questioned the provenance of the seeds tested and criticized the government over the "baseless" accusation. **See more**

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North America

News: Ars Technica reports on California Clean Environment initiative, introduced by activist Cheriel Jensen, to ban GMOs and several chemicals, and to eliminate school vaccination requirements, citing links to cancer, autism, Parkinson's and other diseases

News: Mother Jones reports on California Clean Environment Initiative, introduced by activist Cheriel Jensen, which would ban GMOs and eliminate school vaccination requirements, and prohibit use of 300 substances

News: Devex publishes third article in four-part series on GMOs, with focus on which entities are funding GMO research, highlights Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and various gov't organizations

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science examines shift in Hawaii anti-GMO activists' focus to ag pesticides, highlights Center for Food Safety's recent funding cuts, notes introduced legislation only targets agricultural pesticides, tied to GMOs

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project updates progress of Golden Rice, notes Food Standards Australia New Zealand recommends it be approved for import sale but points out opposition still coming from

Greenpeace, GE-Free New Zealand, discusses frequently asked questions about controversial crop

Commentary: GMO Inside promotes Green America's "Chocolate Scorecard" to inform consumers about which Valentine's Day sweets contain GMOs, cites GE ingredients and claims GMOs never proven safe for consumption, notes 55 percent of U.S. sugar produced from GM sugar beets

Commentary: AlterNet - USRTK successful in lawsuit seeking University of Florida email exchanges that may point to bias toward chemical industry; says previous emails show Kevin Folta received money from Monsato, in addition to using industry-drafted content on GMO Answers

Commentary: AltHealth Works' Nick Meyer criticizes Dr. Oz for touting Mazola corn oil on his show, points out company promotes use of GMOs on its website, notes Oz previously has supported labeling of GMOs, disputes Oz's claims about corn oil's health benefits

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation's (Kalro) GM cassava variety, resistant to both Cassava Mosaic Virus and Cassava Brown Streak Disease, enters third development phase - safety testing

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports Andhra Pradesh gov't issues show-cause notices to Kaveri Seeds and Nuziveedu Seeds for selling illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds to farmers, without approval from Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee

Commentary: Subhojit Goswami of India's Down to Earth amplifies study by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University which found that low compliance in planting refuge crops contributes to pest resistance to Bt cotton

Commentary: Editorial in India's Financial Express argues gov't needs to find ways to bring Monsanto back in to India rather than driving it out, noting farmers need another big break in productivity, highlights dispute over cotton royalties

News: The Hindu reports International Biodiversity Congress to be held in India (Oct. 4 through 6) will highlight erosion of biodiversity as global issue; IBC 2018 chair Vandana Shiva says congress will focus on "biodiversity for ecological civilization"

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: U.N. Environment Programme explains its work on promotion of sustainable biotech in India, summarizes importance of biosafety, highlights achievements of India project from 2012-2016, GEF Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety

Commentary: "Doctor Wine" Daniele Cernilli writes for Italian publication, promotes use of new cisgenic breeding technique to make disease resistant wine grapes, hopes consumers will accept these new technologies, points to similar benefits in medicine

News: France's Science & Vie reports French people consuming GMOs directly and indirectly, warns labeling of GMOs not always transparent, points out labeling not mandatory for products imported from Asia or United States derived from animals that have consumed GMOs, claims GMOs found in meat, milk

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

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator issues notice of license decision approving commercial release of GM omega-3 rich canola variety by Nuseed, making several documents available

News release: Nufarm welcomes Australian regulators' approval of subsidiary Nuseed's GM omega-3 canola for use in feed and human consumption, notes the product will help relieve pressure on wild fish stocks

News: Australian Financial Review reports on Office of Gene Technology Regulator's approval of Nufarm subsidiary Nuseed's omega-3 GM canola for cultivation and use in animal feed, and Food Standards Australia New Zealand's approval for human consumption

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia promotes upcoming forum in Melbourne where scientists Jennifer Doudna and Kevin Esvelt will speak about need for precaution and transparency in CRISPR applications, criticizes gov't for proposing deregulation

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

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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 from U.K researchers targeting gene variations that control rapeseed response to climate change.

- Researchers with the John Innes Centre announced that they'd identified a gene that controls when crops such as canola "shatter" under warmer climate conditions. The researchers noted that identifying the target gene will allow traditional and biotech crop breeders to develop varieties that can withstand a changing climate. **See more**
- Writing in *The Hill*, Recombinetics CEO Tammy Lee Stannoch argued that current regulations on gene-edited animals stifle innovation. Stannoch highlighted new breeds of cattle that are resistant to heat and don't require de-horning as examples of how the technology can benefit the industry and can improve animal welfare. **See more**

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North America

News: The Atlantic profiles Ginko Bioworks, highlights CEO and cofounder Jason Kelly's goal of getting consumers to love GMOs, highlights several consumer-oriented products, as well as recently announced partnership with Bayer

Commentary: President & CEO of animal gene editing company Recombinetics, Tammy Lee Stanoch, writes for The Hill, voices support for giving USDA sole authority in regulating food animals, notes FDA's current role leads to regulatory uncertainty

Commentary: "Hawaii Farmer's Daughter" Joni Kamiya criticizes organic supporters' tactics, responding to recent accusations that she is a "shill," criticizes Hawaii State Legislature for continuing to politicize the GMO issue and conflate it with pesticides

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Council for Biotechnology Information writes GMO Answers post for Medium, responds to recent debate following Humans of New York feature on a man who wants to use biotech to help small farmers in India, dispels several myths

Commentary: American Chemical Society's Chemical & Engineering News magazine examines threats to arabica coffee variety, progress has been made in potential GE solutions, but World Coffee Research believes coffee and genetic engineering are not compatible

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes for CounterPunch, criticizes Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts' recent promotion of GM mustard in India, amplifies claims of Indian anti-GMO activist Aruna Rodrigues, argues Roberts' approach is reductionist

More North America items

Africa

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity, Third World Network and GeneWatch UK voice opposition to planned release of male sterile GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, pointing to Target Malaria's acknowledgement that the release is experimental with no benefits

News: CAJ News Africa reports on U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) announcement of partnership with 350,000 Zimbabwean farmers and local experts to stop spread of fall armyworm, which could lead to losses between $76 and $191 million

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: India's Mathrubhumi publishes Vandana Shiva's comments submitted to Competition Commission of India in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto deal, she points to negative impact of illegal Bt cotton in India, highlights risks associated with pesticides

More Asia items

Europe

News release: John Innes Centre announces publication of new research establishing genetic link between increased temperature and pod shatter in oilseed rape, which will inform future crop improvement advancements to mitigate effects of climate change

Commentary: Helene Schulze of U.K. NGO Sustainable Food Trust recounts recent International Green Week demonstration in Germany, argues that U.K. should continue to work with EU post-Brexit on food and farming issues, supports a European agrifood movement

Commentary: Jeanpierre Favi of French independent news outlet Le Media calls on readers to support Volunteer Reaper Bruno S at his upcoming court appearance on Feb. 20, summoned for refusal to provide a DNA sample in case regarding field vandalism

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports on National Council of Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina's (Conicet) celebration of 60th anniversary, president Alejandro Ceccatto noted recent acheivements included development of water stress-resistant GM soybeans

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on six month grace period for compliance with new GMO labeling mandate, which requires foods containing over one percent of GMOs to have a label with the letter "T" and the statement, "Contains genetically modified organisms"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on shortage of GM and hybrid canola seeds, due to rain and hail during 2017 harvest, other varieties are available, but many farmers prefer GM seeds in their rotations to help with weed control

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 12, 2018
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018 4:04:01 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Months of criticism of the International Agency for Research on Cancer culminated with a U.S. House hearing last week at which lawmakers questioned the outfit's assessment of glyphosate and threatened to pull American funding.

At the top of this week's Stories Worth Sharing, check out Genetic Literacy Project's recap of the hearing. More coverage and stakeholder reaction can be found in the What's Trending section.

Other articles discuss misleading non-GMO labels, question whether a ban of neonics would actually help bees and examine myths about organic food production.

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: Carey Gillam

Former *Reuters* reporter turned anti-GMO and anti-pesticide activist Carey Gillam works for the organic industry-funded U.S. Right to Know campaign.

Gillam was in the news this week alleging U.S. Congressional inquiries into the International

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine and Cameron English: U.S. House committee highlights "unsubstantiated claims" of IARC

Kevin Folta: Non-GMO labels misinform consumers about the "hypothetical presence of a non-existent threat"

Caroline Hauxwell: Australian neonic ban would likely harm farmers more than it would help bees

Henry Miller: Organic agriculture kept afloat "only by massive subsidies" that cover up its low yields and wasted resources

Michael J. Ssali: Ugandan president's support for science and innovation make it likely he will sign biosafety bill at some point

Mary Mangan: Stonyfield "peddling bad information" on biotechnology and trying to silence critics

Victor Tangermann: Debunking the myths that organic food is healthier, GMOs are dangerous

Marcel Kuntz: Profound gap between scientific consensus on glyphosate and French media coverage

Micaela Wright: Trump administration supporting farmers by nixing burdensome regulations on chlorpyrifos, WOTUS

Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) were only an agribusiness corporate conspiracy and "cancer cover-up" by Roundup inventor Monsanto.

LEARN MORE about Gillam.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Alison Van Eenennaam: "Okja" film perpetuates tired characterization of scientists as "disturbed, money-hungry corporate sell outs"

Brian McNicoll: Prop 65 labeling requirements for glyphosate mark typical "overregulation" in California for product most deem safe

ISAAA: Global biotech crop planting rises to over 185 million hectares

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee critical of glyphosate review by International Agency for Research on Cancer

Responding to glyphosate controversy, European Parliament sets up committee to review pesticide approval process

Indian state sets up special investigation of illegal Bt cotton sales

European Food Safety Authority sets Feb. 28 release date for neonic risk assessments

Brazilian regulator approves Bayer-Monsanto deal

Calendar highlights

February 13	February 14	February 15
Swiss Academy of Sciences presentation on NBTs	Pesticide Action Network U.K. presentation: "Don't let Brexit bee a buzz kill"	Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium Biotech Awards
February 19-23	**February 20**	**February 24**
Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on SAICM	Stockholm Chemicals Groups film screening - "Endocrination"	Martinique conference on pollution and EDCs

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an NGO's efforts to influence Australia's deliberations on deregulating gene editing. Monsanto officials welcomed an investigation into illegal Bt cotton being sold in India. A brokerage firm advisor commented on why China rejected GM corn imports from the U.S.

- U.K.-based GMWatch urged readers to email Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator to protest a proposal that would deregulate gene-edited animals, plants, and microbes. GMWatch claimed terror groups could take advantage of non-regulation to create new diseases and poisons. **See more**
- There was continued reporting and commentary on the Indian state of Maharashtra's announcement it formed an investigation team to probe unapproved Bt cotton sales. *Press Trust of India* reported a statement from Mahyco Monsanto Biotech welcomed the investigation, saying such activity "makes farmers vulnerable to exploitation" and undermines their efforts to steward such technology. **See more**
- A market analyst with The Heuber Report was skeptical that China rejected four U.S. corn shipments due to "GMO issues." Dan Hueber suggested in a column that it was more than a coincidence this happened after the U.S. imposed heavy tariffs on washing machines and solar panels from China. His commentary was syndicated by *AgWeb*. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Market analyst expresses skepticism over Chinese cancelling four corn cargoes over GM issues; points to U.S. tariffs on washing machines, solar panels as more compelling reason

News: Food Navigator reports on recent webinar held by Food Institute, where OFW Law attorneys examined which food labeling claims put companies most at risk of a class action lawsuit, highlights cases involving glyphosate, GMOs and "natural" labels

Commentary: Researcher Belinda Martineau blogs that she's impressed with Monsanto's GMO procedures and tests, but says "extra DNA" can be accidentally inserted into GE crop plants

Commentary: Joan Conrow writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes ISAAA reports GMOs cultivated on record 347 million acres in 26 countries during 2016

Interview: Grist's Nathanael Johnson questions Charles C. Mann on his book "The Wizard and the Prophet;" Mann notes both have strong arguments, with "techno-wizard" supporting industrial ag and GMOs, the "prophet-ecologist" warning the Earth has limits, while Mann says Earth's capacity may be so large as to be irrelevant

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on USDA's pledge to support implementation of modern biotech in Nigeria, announced during USDA team's visit to Nigeria's National Bio-safety Management Agency, highlights remarks by NBMA's Rufus Ebegba

Commentary: Oluoma Udemezue of Nigeria's Pulse warns readers about health risks of GMOs, claims foods available in grocery stores are a "feast of death," and that GMOs are poisonous to the body, points to rising death rates in Africa

Commentary: Farmer and science journalist Michael J. Ssali writes in Uganda's Daily Monitor that despite efforts by anti-science activists and MPs to kill biosafety bill, President Museveni's "strong support for science and innovation is well known"; highlights biotech solutions to crop diseases and climate challenges

News: News site reports Gates Foundation supports "super GMO farm," including GM cow that would produce as much milk for Africans as cows produce in Europe

News: Nigerian environmental news site reports Food Standards Australia New Zealand tests of Golden Rice 2 show lower nutritional quality, genetic instability; notes application fails to show substantial benefits

News: Tanzanian news site reports farmers appeal to government to produce drought- and pest-resistant seeds at affordable costs; farmers noted WEMA project seeds greatly increased yields

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports some Chinese buyers canceled U.S. corn purchases, switching to rival supplier Ukraine, as Chinese grain mills encounter difficulty obtaining permits to process GM grain

News: Times of India reports on formation of special investigation team (SIT) to examine role of domestic seed companies and Monsanto in infiltration of illegal herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds into the market, Monsanto welcomed the SIT, pointing to its prior warning

News: Press Trust of India reports Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (MMB) welcomes Maharashtra gov't formation of special investigation team (SIT) to examine illegal production and sale of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton, noting such activity makes farmers vulnerable

News: Indian news site reports farmers, activists complain government allowing illegal import of GM soybean, corn; activists fear contamination from GM crops, health risks from glyphosate residue

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Suddeutsche Zeitung journalist argues glyphosate ban does nothing for sustainable agriculture, only eliminates use of "best herbicide available;" says only commitment to science will impact sustainable agriculture

Commentary: Journalists write for openDemocracyUK, say Syngenta struck deal with London's Evening Standard to pay for positive coverage to improve company's image, pave way for post-Brexit rules on GMOs that favor agribusinesses

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse welcomes new German coalition gov't plans to phase-out glyphosate use as soon as possible, as well as to confirm current ban on GM crop cultivation and expand organic farming

Commentary: Inf'OGM criticizes EU's advocate general opinion that mutagenesis is not governed by GMO regulations; claims he failed to consider international law, such as the Cartagena Protocol

News: French science magazine reports GMOs part of diet of anyone who eats products produced by livestock fed on GM feed, such as milk, eggs, meat; labeling not required in EU

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Colombia's Dinero reports on recent visit by Spanish scientist JosÃ© Miguel Mulet to present his new book, "Transgenics Without Fear," highlights his arguments that GM foods are safe and that organic foods are expensive without offering any health benefits

Commentary: Cida de Oliveira writes for Brazilian news outlet, criticizes so-called "Poison Package," which would repeal current Agrochemicals Law, and allow registration of chemicals banned in other countries, notes it benefits chemcial/transgenic industry

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on Brazil's and Argentina's resolutions on regulating products of new breeding techniques, with both countries striving to balance risks while promoting innovation, highlights definitions of genetic modification

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australia-based anti-biotech NGO says if OGTR proposals are approved, gene-edited products will be deregulated "despite off-target impacts and no history of safe use"

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9 02:32 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Brazil's antitrust regulator approved Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. In India, Maharashtra officials formed a special task force to investigate and curb the sale of an herbicide-tolerant cotton variety not approved for cultivation. In Burkina Faso, activists pushed back against cotton farmers' call for a return to Bt cotton cultivation.

- Brazil's antitrust agency, the Administrative Council for Economic Defens (CADE), granted conditional approval of Bayer's planned takeover of Monsanto, marking an important milestone in the deal given Brazil's importance as a commodities producer. The companies are awaiting a decision by EU antitrust regulators, due March 12. The U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment and Trade signed off on the purchase in early December. **See more**
- News outlets in India reported that Maharashtra state government had formed a Special Investigative Team to investigate the illegal sale of herbicide-tolerant cotton varieties in the region. Reports in *The Hitavada* and *Press Trust of India* highlighted the task force's remit to investigate trait developer Monsanto's role in the proliferation of the seeds, as well as to explore whether other seed firms were involved in the illegal sales. **See more**
- In Burkina Faso, the Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE) held a news conference to criticize recent calls for the country to return to Bt cotton production. The group specifically targeted cotton farmer Casimir Gnoumou, who spoke for members the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina (UNPCB) last month about problems with the replacement cotton varieties. CCAE claimed that cottonseed oil made from Bt cotton varieties was harmful to public health and criticized multinational companies for trying to monopolize seeds. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by University of California-Davis animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam arguing Netflix film "Okja" perpetuates stereotypes about food, farming, scientists with its depiction of giant GMO pig, pointing out "science" depicted in film makes no sense

News: Times of San Diego reports California Clean Environment Initiative would ban GE food, plants, animals, prohibit treating water with fluoride or chlorine, eliminate vaccine requirements and regulate vaccine ingredients; backer believes GMOs, chemicals, radiation cause cancer

Commentary: Environmental Working Group's legislative director says U.S. farmers "lost out on over $1.5 billion in sales of organic soybeans and corn between 2012 and 2017" according to trade data released by U.S. Departure of Agriculture; highlights Homegrown Organic Act

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association reacts to Newsweek's firing of top editorial staff after report company had artificially inflated website traffic numbers, suggests link to OCA's campaign criticizing Newsweek's publication of opinion piece written by Henry I. Miller without disclosing his ties to Monsanto

More North America items

Africa

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on Citizen Collective for Agroecology's (CCAE) press conference in opposition to Bt cotton, warning about poor quality and risks of Bt toxin to humans and the environment, CCAE announced an anti-GMO march on May 19

News: Lefaso.net reports on Citizen Collective for Agroecology's (CCAE) warning against return to GM Bt cotton at recent press conference, spokesperson Ali Tapsoba warned about harmfulness of Bt toxin to the body

News: Nigerian news site Daily Trust reports HOMEF director Nnimmo Bassey claims NBMA incapable of assuring biosafety because it approves applications "without due consideration" of impact or public concerns

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow profiles Tanzanian farmer who serves in Parliament; he says insufficient access to new technologies one of greatest challenges facing African farmers, notes Tanzania completed confined field trials for Water Efficient Maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports state sets up special investigation team to probe illegal Bt cotton production in Maharashtra; herbicide-tolerant varieties not approved, but are being sold

News: Indian news site reports state of Maharashtra forms special investigation into Monsanto's role in producing, selling herbicide-tolerant Bt Cotton

Commentary: India's Swarajya magazine runs piece by visiting professor at Iowa State University's Seed Science Center suggesting many current scientific controversies more about ideologies, political debates than about science, citing example of EU using precautionary principle to curtail deployment of GM crops

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity posts decision statement issued by Malaysia's National Biosafety Board on application for release of products of Simplot E12 potato for supply or sale in market; board approves permit based on evaluation that product doesn't endanger biological diversity

News: Reuters reports China's imports of soybeans in January grew 11 percent from same month in 2017 amid healthy demand for soymeal from hog sector, but some cargoes may have been delayed after China toughened soybean import specifications on GMOs while trade tensions rose with United States

More Asia items

Europe

Report: Spain's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment publishes "Strategy for Ecological Production 2018-2020" on actions to support organic production; report includes study of organic production's role in "environmental policy and adaptation to climate change"

News: Deutsche Welle analyzes what Germany's new governing coalition means for climate, energy and agriculture, reports glyphosate will be phased out in country as soon as possible, patents on plant and animal genes will be banned, as will cloning of animals for food production

Commentary: Informationdienst Gentechnik claims disease-resistant pigs not an answer for swine fever, notes Testbiotech claim that infected pigs still get the virus and pass it along to other pigs, spreading the disease more quickly

Commentary: European Coordination Via Campesina recaps 11th General Assembly held in Brussels in January, when activists demonstrated outside European Commission offices in favor of regulations for new GMOs, claiming industry wants to introduce new GMOs to market without prior assessment

News: Dairy Reporter notes seminar in Ireland will help Irish dairies reach non-GMO market in Germany as Germans prefer non-GMO products

News: U.K.'s Farmers Weekly reports latest figures from ISAAA show four countries in EU grew commercial GM maize in 2016, with Spain's area increasing by 20 percent from year before; Monsanto's Bt maize grown in all four countries but unsuitable for growing in U.K., where pests it resists not present

News: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service reports U.K. government aligning to nurture, support gene editing techniques in agriculture with goal to be biotech innovation leader as it departs EU

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports on Brazilian antitrust agency Cade's approval of Bayer-Monsanto deal, without requiring asset sales beyond those proposed in October to BASF, highlights opposition in Brazil from soy and cotton growers and seed producers

News: Brazil's Globo reports Administrative Council for Economic Defense (Cade) approves Bayer-Monsanto merger with restrictions, Cade process rapporteur Paulo Burnier da Silveira found proposal to sell seed and herbicide assets to BASF "sufficient and timely"

News: Brazilian agricultural news site reports global area planted with biotech crops grew three percent in 2016 according to ISAAA; Brazil one of 16 countries that increased biotech crop area in 2016

Interview: Colombia's Publimetro talks to Spanish biochemist Jose Miguel Mulet about his new book, "Transgenics Without Fear," he defends biotechnology and its potential to help feed world, explains origins of "fear of transgenics"

Commentary: Guatemalan food sovereignty network details its legal appeal before Constitutional Court against decree establishing the Nagoya protocol, noted its opposition to country's seed law

News: Mexican news site reports former National Peasant Confederation leader says Mexico needs to use technology in food production, including researching and using biotech crops, to reduce reliance on imported food

News: Uruguay's Radio Nacional reports on changes in regulations for labeling GM foods, developed by Department of Social Development's Food Regulation Service and stakeholders from civil society and industry, the new label will have the letter "T" in addition to text

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Organic Industries of Australia promote Love Organic Symposium to be held Feb. 14-15 in Canberra to deliberate on formation of "new peak body," future of Australian government's organic program

Commentary: Australia-based anti-biotech NGO says if OGTR proposals are approved, gene-edited products will be deregulated "despite off-target impacts and no history of safe use"

Campaign: Friends of the Earth Melbourne urges supporters to send emails to Australian assistant minister for health asking her to ensure new GM techniques such as CRISPR assessed for safety before being used, warns proposed changes would make Australia first country to deregulate GM animals

Event: Australia's Convergence Science Network promotes panel discussion Feb. 13 in Melbourne on "The Science and Ethics of Genome Editing," to feature biologist Jennifer Doudna, co-inventor of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing tool, and Kevin Esvelt of MIT Media Lab

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 Germany successfully formed a coalition government, with negotiated policies on GMO cultivation bans and glyphosate. Foodwatch International issued a report claiming that European trade deals threatened the region's precautionary approach in several industries, including agriculture.

- News outlets in Europe reported that German Chancellor Angela Merkel successfully formed a coalition government, with Merkel's Christian Democrats again teaming up with the Social Democrats. Agricultural policies were featured among the negotiated positions, with promises to end the use of glyphosate and establish nationwide guidelines for GMO cultivation bans. Activists applauded the announcements but called for a concrete timetable on the glyphosate ban. **See more**
- Activist group Foodwatch International issued a new report today claiming that European trade deals being negotiated with Mercosur and other regions would undermine Europe's "precautionary principle" approach to regulation. Among other concerns, Foodwatch noted that non-EU countries did not have guidelines for labeling products of animals fed GMOs. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Pro-GMO teacher and blogger Stephan Neidenbach writes for Medium, criticizing anti-GMO journalist Paul Thacker, highlights Stat News' retraction of his statement claiming that Genetic Literacy Project receives funding from Monsanto

News: Food & Environment Reporting Network writers list the key issues they believe will drive food and agriculture news coverage in 2018, including potential battles over seed technologies and gene editing, with proponents of GE technology using careful, targeted messaging to avoid public rejection

News: Politico Pro reports Kraft Heinz Company and DowDuPont are latest companies to announce departure from Grocery Manufacturers Association, DowDuPont noted it will make direct engagement with food companies a top priority

Event: Conventional on Biological Diversity invites Parties to the Convention to organize and host local celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22, 2018) with the theme, "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity"

News release: DowDuPont announces its Agriculture Division's grand opening of Bay Area Innovation Center in California, newly expanded state-of-the-art research and development facility focused on agricultural biotechnology discovery, enabling technology development and leading-edge informatics

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies California monarch butterfly count's most recent findings that western butterfly population is continuing to decline at an alarming rate, links monarch declines to use of herbicides on GM crops

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports on study in journal Crop Protection which found that Telangana and Andhra Pradesh farmers' refusal to grow proper refuge crops around Bt cotton fields enables pests to develop resistance more quickly

Study: GM Crops and Food publishes research paper by two scientists from ISAAA's Southeast Asia Center in the Philippines showing biotech crop planting worldwide resumed high adoption in 2016, with global area planted increasing to 185.1 million hectares, 3 percent increase over 2015

Report: ISAAA promotes release of "ISAAA in 2017: Accomplishment Report," which showcases programs implemented by NGO through Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology, plus regional centers for Africa and Southeast Asia; global coordinator notes biotech crop adoption worldwide in 2016 highest ever

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters reports on Germany's draft coalition deal, it includes a goal for ending glyphosate-use, but without providing a time frame, as well as formalization of current GM crop cultivation ban, and an expansion of organic farming

Commentary: Informationsdienst Gentechnik discusses possible formation of coalition that will call for ban on GE cultivation throughout Germany, suggest that new molecular biology breeding technologies such as CRISPR-Cas be regulated to ensure precautionary principle and consumer choice

News release: Germany's Organic Federation of Organic Food Industry (BOLW) chairman, Felix Prinz zu Lowenstein, issues statement on Union and SPD's coalition agreement, praising policies on glyphosate and GE, highlights more work that needs to be done

Announcement: Foodwatch announces publication of new report with PowerShift, "Trade at Any Cost?", which examines negative impact of various EU trade deals, currently under negotiation, on consumer rights, environmental standards and democratic principles

Commentary: Foodwatch International executive director Thilo Bode writes opinion piece for Politico Pro EU, criticizes EU's trade negotiations with various countries, argues that the precautionary principle should play a decisive role in the process

Commentary: Julia Fraser and Richard Welfare of U.K. law firm Hogan Lovells summarize EU Commission's Feb. 1 notice on impact of Brexit on U.K. food products, GM food products must have an EU established food business operator, authorisation holder or representative

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazil's Embrapa promotes symposium March 15 on "Integration of Public Research with Sugarcane in Brazil," with researchers discussing actions of main genetic improvement programs for crop, including how biotechnology could be important ally in sugarcane breeding programs

News: Argentina's Clarin reports DowDuPont launches new global seed brand Brevant, which will be available in Argentina in corn, soy, sunflower and sorghum; Brevant soybean technology only available in 2019 if Argentina approves Seed Law or adequate legal framework for capture of corresponding value

Commentary: Eugenia Bustamante, a lawyer and professor at Universidad Austral and Universidad Catolica Argentina, writes for Clarin, summarizes Argentina's biotech regulations, emphasizes importance of communication with the public to boost acceptance

News: Brazil's Infobae reports National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) declares nullity of Monsanto's patent on Intacta soybean, agronomist Roberto Campi described the move as "very good news," noted it should be a wake-up call for Argentina

Campaign: Sierra Norte Libre de Transgenicos issues support call to raise 6,000 Euros to subtitle Marie-Monique Robin's new documentary, "The Monsanto International Tribunal," in Spanish

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news on negotiations over the language of a revised national biosafety bill in Uganda. In Europe, *EurActiv* reported that government coalition talks in Germany included negotiations over glyphosate use and GM crop cultivation.

- In Uganda, reports in a prominent newspaper and on an NGO website highlighted proposed changes to the newly renamed Genetic Engineering and Biosafety Act. *New Vision* reporter Henry Sekanjako reported that the country's science minister had convened a subcommittee to address President Yoweri Museveni's concerns. Proposed changes included a new requirement that biotechnology researchers enter a benefits sharing agreement with local communities, that all plant materials and products associated with the research be clearly labeled as GMOs and a recommendation establishing a nationwide gene bank to preserve indigenous species. Activist group Hivos reported on the negotiations, naming several local civil society organizations who were involved in the discussions. **See more**

- Confirming a weekend report by *Reuters*, *EurActiv* reported today that talks to form a coalition government in Germany included promises to phase out the use of glyphosate "as soon as possible" and to establish uniform national rules for the cultivation of GM crops. However, the negotiations continue with no clear date for the establishment of a new government. **See more**

- In Nigeria, the National Inter-Religious Council issued a news release criticizing the "unguarded" release of GM crops in the country. Council member Nnimmo Bassey, who heads the Health of Mother Earth Foundation, told news outlets that the National Biotechnology Management Agency was ignoring public outcry over GM crop field trials. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Futurism criticizes misleading efforts of advocacy groups, anti-pesticide celebrities to push health, environmental benefits of organic food, refutes claims of organic food as healthier, pesticide free, GMOs as unhealthy, bad for environment

Commentary: Food and Farm Discussion Lab Editor Marc Brazeau writes follow-up thoughts to his recent article, "The Death Throes of the Anti-GMO Movement," highlights ouster of ideologues from mainstream platforms, notes anti-GMO movement's impact is waning

News: Agri-Pulse reports on concerns that new gene editing regulations will stifle innovation, highlights challenges posed by FDA's regulation of GE animals as animal drugs, and trade implications, as different countries figure out their regulatory frameworks

Commentary: CRC Press publishes textbook by Food Law Policy Institute founder on advancing food integrity by banning or increasing GMO regulations and promoting agroecology

Audio: Wellness Mama podcast features "What's Making Our Children Sick?" authors Michelle Perro and

Vincanne Adams, in discussion about rising rates of childhood illnesses and health implications of presence of glyphosate and GMOs in food

Commentary: Tina Haupert of Carrots 'N' Cake amplifies recent Wellness Mama podcast episode featuring authors of "What's making our children sick?", Michelle Perro and Vincanne Adams, notes she and her family will be more aware about GMOs in food

Commentary: American Antitrust Institute posts selection of its economic, legal, institutional, and policy analysis on mergers and other antitrust issues in ag biotech, especially the Bayer-Monsanto deal

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda's New Vision reports on new proposals for Biosafety Act to address President Museveni's concerns, includes name change to Genetic Engineering and Biosafety Act, and provisions for benefit sharing, labeling, and a "Noah's ark" facility to protect native crops and animals

News release: Development NGO Hivos East Africa's Sustainable Diets for All Programme announces partnership with seven Civil Society Organisations at recent media briefing in Kampala, supports Ugandan President Museveni's reservations about Biosafety Bill

Announcement: Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium announces upcoming Third Annual Biosafety Forum 2018 (Feb. 8, 2018), organized by Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, with theme of "Building Trust and Confidence in the Biosafety Regulation System"

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports National Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) raises concern over increased circulation of GM crops without proper monitoring by National Biotechnology Management Agency (NBMA), and it accuses NBMA of promoting GMOs

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports local companies are preparing for commercialization of GM seeds, National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) assistant director Rose Gidado noted local companies will have a key role to play, more than foreign companies

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: AgriCensus analyst warns China's investigation into U.S. sorghum subsidies could be warning shot to U.S. regulators about what's in store for marketing U.S. soybeans into China should President Trump target Chinese metals as part of his America First protectionist drive

Commentary: Ag Daily columnist Michelle "Farm Babe" Miller recounts 2017 visit to India, where she talked to farmers who grow Bt cotton and touted its benefits; Miller says Indian farmers choose to grow biotech crops for those benefits, but she also notes many people there reluctant to embrace ag tech

News: Press Trust of India reports on Union Minister Mahesh Sharma's recent statement that Bt cotton introduction has led to near doubling of cotton production since its introduction in 2002, he noted evaluation of new GM products is done on case-by-case basis

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv Germany reports on continued coalition negotiations, highlights agreement to phase-out glyphosate use as soon as possible, and for a uniform, nationwide regulation for GM crop cultivation

News release: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) announces development of new GM potato with resistant starch, providing added health benefits of dietary fiber, the researchers are working to develop a similar potato using CRISPR/Cas9

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Director of Mexican NGO Semillas de Vida writes for La Jornada, claims draft Biodiversity Law contradicts principles of Convention on Biological Diversity, including those on intellectual property rights, urges readers to contact their legislators

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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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 5, 2018
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:03:34 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

An ill-conceived attack ad on GMOs continues to blow up in Stonyfield Farm's face. After initial criticism for relying on young girls to spread myfhs about biotechnology, the organic giant only made matters worse by dismissing its critics as "trolls" with fake online profiles. The backlash got bad enough that its former creative agency distanced itself from the video and went as far as saying it disagreed with Stonyfield's response.

Four pieces on this week's newsletter - by Michelle Miller, Hank Campbell, Steven Novella and Andrew Porterfield - further examine the issue.

We also feature a commentary from former USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on the ramifications of misleading non-GMO labels, an American Council on Science and Health article detailing incorrect information spread by NGOs about honeybee conservation and two pieces examining the ongoing dispute over glyphosate despite its proven safety record.

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In This Issue

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What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Pesticide Action Network

Pesticide Action Network International (PAN) is the global "hub" for its network of regional centers in North America,

Stories Worth Sharing

Michelle Miller: Stonyfield apparently thinks "right to know" about GMOs doesn't require responsibility to learn the truth

Matt Ridley: Brexit policies should not stifle innovation in areas such as gene editing

Hank Campbell: New anti-GMO ad shows Stonyfield must think girls don't understand science

Steven Novella: Stonyfield triples down on its "dubious" behavior with fear-mongering video, dismissive response to critics

Tom Vilsack: Misleading non-GMO labels hurt consumer confidence in food system

Chuck Dinerstein: Cambridge paper calls out NGOs, science journalists for trumped up claims that honeybees need to be conserved

Andrew Porterfield: Stonyfield turns to kids to extend its "history of spreading misinformation" about biotechnology, organic food

Colin Stevens: Hard to believe vitriol produced by "dubious"

Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

PAN was founded in 1982 out of organized opposition to globalization, capitalism and alleged control by multinational corporations and rich national governments.

LEARN MORE about Pesticide Action Network.

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glyphosate review by International Agency for Research on Cancer

EU Policies think tank: "Baffling" that glyphosate saga rages on despite its extensive safety record

Julie Gunlock: Radical green activists' "lies" push African nations to ban GM crops that could reduce hunger

Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization official: Scientists willing to clarify president's concerns about biosafety bill

Bernard Goldstein: Europe's precautionary principle unfairly used to harm American agriculture, including GM grain

Cameron English and Kavin Senapathy: Tips for talking to people who reject "empirical scientific truths" on food and agriculture

Robert Arnason: Cargill undermines claim that it supports science by teaming up with Non-GMO Project

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee plans Tuesday hearing to review scientific integrity of International Agency for Research on Cancer

Nigeria biosafety agency reiterates commitment to ensuring safety of GM crops, criticizes activist groups

French government agencies demand proactive strategy on endocrine disruptors

Harvard researcher behind disputed bee studies claims in new paper that neonics on produce could pose risk to people

Calendar highlights

February 6	February 6-8	February 7
U.S. House committee hearing on IARC glyphosate monograph	Africa regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management	Norway Biotechnology Council public forum on GMOs
February 7	**February 13**	**February 15**
Chemical Watch webinar on European Union EDC criteria	Swiss Academy of Sciences presentation on NBTs	Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium Biotech Awards

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 5, 2018
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:03:14 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

An ill-conceived attack ad on GMOs continues to blow up in Stonyfield Farm's face. After initial criticism for relying on young girls to spread myfhs about biotechnology, the organic giant only made matters worse by dismissing its critics as "trolls" with fake online profiles. The backlash got bad enough that its former creative agency distanced itself from the video and went as far as saying it disagreed with Stonyfield's response.

Four pieces on this week's newsletter - by Michelle Miller, Hank Campbell, Steven Novella and Andrew Porterfield - further examine the issue.

We also feature a commentary from former USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on the ramifications of misleading non-GMO labels, an American Council on Science and Health article detailing incorrect information spread by NGOs about honeybee conservation and two pieces examining the ongoing dispute over glyphosate despite its proven safety record.

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: Pesticide Action Network

Pesticide Action Network International (PAN) is the global "hub" for its network of regional centers in North America,

Stories Worth Sharing

Michelle Miller: Stonyfield apparently thinks "right to know" about GMOs doesn't require responsibility to learn the truth

Matt Ridley: Brexit policies should not stifle innovation in areas such as gene editing

Hank Campbell: New anti-GMO ad shows Stonyfield must think girls don't understand science

Steven Novella: Stonyfield triples down on its "dubious" behavior with fear-mongering video, dismissive response to critics

Tom Vilsack: Misleading non-GMO labels hurt consumer confidence in food system

Chuck Dinerstein: Cambridge paper calls out NGOs, science journalists for trumped up claims that honeybees need to be conserved

Andrew Porterfield: Stonyfield turns to kids to extend its "history of spreading misinformation" about biotechnology, organic food

Colin Stevens: Hard to believe vitriol produced by "dubious"

Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

PAN was founded in 1982 out of organized opposition to globalization, capitalism and alleged control by multinational corporations and rich national governments.

LEARN MORE about Pesticide Action Network.

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glyphosate review by International Agency for Research on Cancer

EU Policies think tank: "Baffling" that glyphosate saga rages on despite its extensive safety record

Julie Gunlock: Radical green activists' "lies" push African nations to ban GM crops that could reduce hunger

Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization official: Scientists willing to clarify president's concerns about biosafety bill

Bernard Goldstein: Europe's precautionary principle unfairly used to harm American agriculture, including GM grain

Cameron English and Kavin Senapathy: Tips for talking to people who reject "empirical scientific truths" on food and agriculture

Robert Arnason: Cargill undermines claim that it supports science by teaming up with Non-GMO Project

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee plans Tuesday hearing to review scientific integrity of International Agency for Research on Cancer

Nigeria biosafety agency reiterates commitment to ensuring safety of GM crops, criticizes activist groups

French government agencies demand proactive strategy on endocrine disruptors

Harvard researcher behind disputed bee studies claims in new paper that neonics on produce could pose risk to people

Calendar highlights

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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 Bayer had proposed additional concessions to meet demands from European regulators reviewing its purchase of Monsanto. In India, controversy over Bt cotton's efficacy continued.

- Bayer submitted a formal package of concessions to European regulators, according to the website of the regulatory agency overseeing its proposed acquisition of Monsanto. Additional details were not released, though the European Commission announced that it had extended the deadline for its review of the takeover from March 12 to April 5. **See more**
- In response to a question from India's upper parliamentary house, Union Minister Mahesh Sharma told legislators that Bt cotton had more than doubled cotton production since it was introduced in 2002, largely due to its effectiveness against bollworm. In contrast, a delegation of seed producers urged the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to revoke license fees for Bollgard-II technology, citing its failure to control pink bollworm this cotton season. **See more**
- The Coalition for a GM-Free India filed complaints claiming that the country had been illegally importing GM soybean seeds. In letters filed with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee and the Director General for Foreign Trade, the group called for "swift" action to stop the sale of the seeds. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Medium posts GMO Answers piece by University of Oklahoma law professor arguing U.S. regulatory approach to agricultural biotechnology outdated, needs appropriate and scientifically sound updating, especially regarding level of regulatory scrutiny appropriate for new, more precise GE methods

Commentary: George Mason University-affiliated think tank runs piece by Henry I. Miller arguing organic industry is case study in "rent-seeking" because it's funded by U.S. taxpayers, asserting activists supported by special interest groups spend billions on disinformation campaigns about genetic engineering in agriculture

News: Reuters reports Mars Inc. publishes policies on conducting and funding scientific studies for first time, plans to leave International Life Sciences Institute in order to boost transparency; report notes Mars separately left Grocery Manufacturers Association over NGO's stance on labeling of GE food ingredients

News: Vancouver business news source reports British Columbian company gets OK for third variety of GM non-browning apple, Arctic Fuji Apple, to be sold in Canadian groceries; Okanagan Specialty Fruits so far only selling sliced non-browning apples in United States, plans to expand production to orchards in Washington state

News: Ohio's Country Journal reports on upcoming Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's (OEFFA) 39th annual conference, "A Taste for Change," from Feb.15-17, keynote speakers include Rodale Institute's Jeff Moyer, and U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on animal breeder Olufunmilayo Adebambo's argument that Nigeria does not have the necessary infrastructure to adopt GMOs, she also does not support Nigeria's importation of GMOs

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports on farmers' struggles with effects of climate change, Murenga Mwimali of Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organisation calls on gov't to quickly approve biotech seeds proven to be drought and pest-resistant

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports reps. from National Seed Association of India (NSAI) Kaveri Seeds and Ajeet Seeds send memo to Union Ag Minister Radha Mohan Singh, calling for removal of trait fees on Bt cotton, due to development of pest resistance

News: India's Outlook reports on Coalition for a GM-free India's call on gov't to take strict action on alleged imports of illegal GM soybean seeds, arguing such imports are in violation of Environmental Protection Act and 2006 DGFT notification

More Asia items

Europe

News: Germany's Handelsblatt reports on EU's further extension of its examination of Bayer-Monsanto deal until April 5, highlights concerns about digital agriculture, and public pressure on the EU Commission

News: German anti-GMO news outlet Informationsdienst Gentechnik reports on Bayer's submission of "extensive commitments" to EU Commission to gain approval for Monsanto takeover, highlights concerns about digital ag tech monopoly

News: AgriHolland reports future detection of GMOs is uncertain due to rise of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, while regulations currently remain based on the technology used

Commentary: Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama promotes biochemist Jose Miguel Mulet's new book, "Transgenics Without Fear," in which he uses science to dispel several myths about biotech, includes a video interview

Audio: Spain's RTVE interviews Vandana Shiva, visiting Madrid to promote her new book, "Who Really Feeds the World?", highlighting her promotion of an agroecological revolution

News: Farmers Guardian reports on challenges in developing post-Brexit devolved structure, NFU Scotland policy director Jonnie Hall pointed to possible opportunities for regulatory divergence within the U.K. on issues such as pesticides, biotech and gene editing

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Mexico's Milenio talks to filmmaker Alberto Cortes about his new film, "Maize in Times of War," which documents four indigenous, rural communities in danger from transgenics; Cortes says

country has peasants to thank for stopping entry of transgenics

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Testbiotech issues comments on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's golden rice risk assessment, claims International Rice Research Institute's application does not show substantial benefits, claims FSANZ's risk assessment is insufficient

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 German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party agreeing to work toward a ban on GMO cultivation and French President Emmanuel Macron said France must fight three "great battles" for food sovereignty. The Croatian Parliament voted down a proposed GMO ban.

- *Reuters* reported that the Christian Democrat Party headed by Merkel reached an agreement with Social Democrats to ban glyphosate use "as soon as possible" and to ban GMO cultivation. German researcher Peter Langelüddeke released an open letter saying he got no response when he asked SPD members why they believed GMOs are so dangerous that they must be banned. **See more**
- During a speech on issues facing French agriculture, Macron outlined his plan for France to achieve food independence. Macron said, "France is 40 percent dependent on imported GMO soybeans and 60 percent on nitrogen fertilizers: we therefore have no real sovereignty." **See more**
- *Total Croatia News* reported the Croatian Parliament rejected an amendment that would have banned GMO cultivation, importation and marketing. **See more**
- Western Australia Parliament member Jim Chown urged GM canola farmers to give input on to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, which is investigating mechanisms to compensate farmers for damage from contamination by GM crop material. Chown said some are "looking to exploit the emotional misinformation and fear about the use of GMs as opposed to the scientifically proven facts." **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Review: The New York Times publishes review by environmentalist Bill McKibben of Charles C. Mann book, "The Wizard and the Prophet," that contrasts dueling visions of scientists Norman Borlaug and William Vogt; McKibben points out alleged shortcomings in Mann's analysis of how scientific approaches treat GMO food

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam, who explains why products from animals given GM feed are no different from those from animals given non-GM feed, she notes dangers of "free-from" labeling trend

Commentary: AltHealth Works' Nick Meyers profiles Cornell student Robert Schooler's crusade against "blatant display of unscientific propaganda" on campus funded by Monsanto, Bill Gates Foundation; notes he's launched video titled "GMO WTF"

News release: Monsanto posts summaries by four of its scientists of their most recent studies, showing testing confirms GMOs don't cause food allergies, don't persist in aquatic environments, are unlikely to transfer transgenes to wild soybeans and are as safe to eat as conventional corn

Commentary: ACSH's Alex Berezow revisits 2017 article about Panera Bread using fear of food

preservative BHA to sell its food, notes similarity to Chipotle's anti-GMO campaign, points out recent news Panera had to recall "clean" cream cheese due to threat of listeria contamination

Commentary: George Kimbrell of Center for Food Safety writes for AlterNet, criticizes President Trump's GMO and pesticide policies, urges supporters to take action to support GMO labeling, protect endangered species from pesticides, and ban chlorpyrifos

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya's The Star reports ongoing hunger in Kenya is likely to worsen due to armyworm infestation, highlights World Economic Forum lead researcher Mark Jones' call on Africa to adopt GM crops, noting they will improve food security and reduce farmers' costs

News: AgroNigeria reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) accuses Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) of sabotaging gov't efforts to boost food security through application of technology, NBMA noted its purpose is to ensure GMO safety

News: Nigeria's Vanguard reports on Health of Mother Health Foundation (HOMEF) Director Nnimmo Bassey's call for radical review of National Biosafety Act, raising concerns about some companies allegedly importing GM foods into the country

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on continued threat posed by fall armyworm, Wafaa El Khoury of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) noted farmers can get pesticides from the gov't this year, but a more long-term solution is needed

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports remarks by U.K.-based scientist Richard J. Roberts, winner of 1993 Nobel Prize for physiology, criticizing "anti-GMO people," urging politicians to listen to scientists and not those who oppose science with "nonsense," "lies," calling GMOs "future of agriculture"

Commentary: India's Financial Express runs op-ed arguing government may not approve GM mustard for use by farmers, even though nation's highest authority for assessing safety of GM crops declared in 2017 that GM mustard had passed prescribed tests and recommended that environment minister should approve it

More Asia items

Europe

News: EU Policies think tank notes that due to advocate general's opinion, EU might not regulate gene editing techniques; King's College London's genetics department head warns techniques cause off-target effects that could lead to "unintended outcomes"

Commentary: European regional member of La Via Campesina announces group's "Food Sovereignty NOW" guide touting agroecology, which it claims does not use "agrotoxins, artificial hormones, GMOs or other dangerous new technologies

News: Deutsche Welle reports on East African countries' reluctance to adopt GM crops, highlighting Ugandan President Museveni's refusal to sign biosafety bill, also highlights scientists' promotion of several benefits of biotech crops for the region

News: Monthly Le Monde news magazine article "The Chinese double game with GMOs" discusses "Beijing paradox" which promotes GM research but "limits cultivation to a reluctant population"; article examines GM rice developed by Chinese researchers and validated by U.S. FDA but production not allowed in Chinese territory

News: Croatian news outlet reports Parliament rejects proposed amendment to Genetically Modified Organisms Act, introduced by Miro Bulj of the opposition MOST party, to establish a total ban on cultivation, import and marketing of GMO products

News: Ouest-France reports on Gilles-Seralini's recent presentation at Interages University, joined by natural and organic chef Jerome Douzelet, speaking to students about health risks of glyphosate and GMOs in food

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Colombia's Caracol Radio reports remarks by Spanish science writer Jose Miguel Mulet about his book, "Transgenics Without Fear," denying myths about consumption of transgenic foods, rebutting arguments of GMO opponents, arguing ignorance behind social rejection of GMOs

News: Mexican news site reports Greenpeace denounces Monsanto, claims it plants GM soy in area where judge forbid its cultivation, says there are few surveillance mechanisms to enforce the decree

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Anti-biotech NGO urges FSANZ to stop Golden Rice sales in Australia and New Zealand, claims agency's safety assessment is inadequate, Golden Rice not effective in addressing VAD, will undermine food sovereignty, democracy in Philippines

Commentary: Friends of the Earth reports civil society representatives "firmly rejected" GMOs as means of addressing food security at recent U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization meeting in Malaysia; delegates claim GM crops diminish local community diets, promote monoculture and increase biosafety risks to health and environment

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 ongoing media coverage of a statement from Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency that criticized anti-biotechnology activists. In Brazil, a Supreme Court minister responded to accusations that family-owned farms had irresponsibly used transgenic crops and pesticides.

- Nigerian news outlets reported on a statement released by the National Biosafety Management Agency, which took issue with advocacy groups' criticism of the organization. In the written statement, agency officials accused groups such as Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) of being unpatriotic. The agency highlighted its efforts to ensure the safety of GM crops and products, adding that it had the interests of the Nigerian people at heart. **See more**
- Brazilian news outlet *Olhar Direto* reported that Supreme Court Minister Gilmar Mendes was denying that farms operated by his family were engaged in any "irregular" use of GM crops or pesticides. The State Prosecutor's Office of Mato Grosso (MPMT) filed a lawsuit earlier this week claiming that Mendes and his brothers were violating regulations on agricultural chemical use given the farms' proximity to protected lands. **See more**
- *Press Trust of India* reported on statements from Nobel laureate Richard Roberts, who was participating in the Nobel Prize Series of events in Goa designed to highlight prize-winning science and research. Roberts criticized anti-biotechnology activists for using "lies" and fear to block the technology. He specifically referenced the positive story of Bt cotton production in India. **See more**
- U.S. agricultural news outlets and stakeholders continued to respond to the Stonyfield Farms' marketing campaign that made unsupported fear claims about GMOs. *AgProfessional* reported that several researchers and farmers were criticizing the organic dairy company after it deleted negative comments about the video and banned scientists and farmers from its Facebook page. Farming outreach group Dirt to Dinner pointed out that Stonyfield's reflexive objections to GMOs undermined its claimed focus on sustainability. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Cargill-affiliated food info site Dirt to Dinner highlights backlash against Stonyfield Organic for its YouTube video using children to spread misleading claims about GMOs, points out some consumers concerned that messages implied believing in science behind GMOs makes them bad parents

News: AgProfessional reports farmers, researchers, and other biotech supporters take to Twitter, Facebook after Stonyfield continues deleting and censoring comments; notes Kevin Folta says science literacy affects Stonyfield's bottom line because they can't scare people into buying their products

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan criticizes Newsweek and USA Today for running opinion pieces by Henry I. Miller and Alex Berezow, respectively, cites their alleged conflicts of interest, calls for clear standards on disclosing conflicts of interest involving opinion writers

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association criticizes Newsweek for publishing piece about organic

industry by Henry I. Miller, calling him "well-known Monsanto mouthpiece" and rehashing controversy over piece that appeared under his byline in Forbes, citing USRTK article

More North America items

Africa

News release: NBMA restates commitment to safe GMO use in Nigeria, refutes HOMEF statements suggesting complicity in importing illegal GMOs, calls the statements "incisive" and "unpatriotic"

News: Nigeria's This Day reports National Biosafety Management Agency calls recent statement by anti-GMO group "unpatriotic," says it negates government's effort to ensure safety of modern biotechnology; Health for Mother Earth Foundation accused NBMA of complicity in importation of illegal GM maize in 2017

News: Nigeria's Premium Times reports growing disagreement between National Biosafety Management Agency and anti-GMO campaigners over safety of GM foods; agency accuses activists from Health of Mother Earth Foundation of being "unpatriotic," warns NGO hurting efforts to achieve food security

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science notes Nigeria launched Science Cafe Nigeria to advance science literacy to promote sustainable growth; cafe will be hangout where stakeholders can talk with citizens

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project discusses situation in Uganda, where needs of farmers and fate of at least four improved crops hang in balance as future of nation's biosafety bill unresolved, notes Ugandan scientists working on GE crops, including banana resistant to bacterial wilt, drought-tolerant maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports remarks by U.K.-based scientist Richard J. Roberts, winner of 1993 Nobel Prize for physiology, criticizing "anti-GMO people," urging politicians to listen to scientists and not those who oppose science with "nonsense," "lies," calling GMOs "future of agriculture"

Commentary: India's Financial Express runs op-ed arguing government may not approve GM mustard for use by farmers, even though nation's highest authority for assessing safety of GM crops declared in 2017 that GM mustard had passed prescribed tests and recommended approval

Commentary: Sputnik runs op-ed piece reacting to U.S. FDA's approval of GM Huahui No. 1 rice, quotes director of China's Yunnan Institute for Ecological Agriculture expressing concerns about GM food, notes large-scale cultivation of GMO cereals still officially prohibited in China

More Asia items

Europe

Event: Norwegian Parliament announces Health and Care Committee to host Feb. 8 open hearing regarding evaluation of Biotechnology Act, releases agenda

Event: Norwegian Biotechnology Council announces meetings March 14 and March 15 for public input into the future regulation of GMOs, NBTs

Event: Norwegian Biotechnology Council summarizes Jan. 29 open hearing in Parliament on Biotechnology Act, committee will submit report April 24 on how to regulate new breeding techniques, while Parliament hearing on paper follows May 15; notes current law is outdated and deals only with medical biotechnology

Interview: Spain's El Mundo talks to Vandana Shiva, who claims "Poison Cartel" dominates world,

asserts Bayer-Monsanto merger will generate more diseases, says Golden Rice doesn't work, characterizes letter from 110 Nobel laureates supporting GMOs as campaign orchestrated by Monsanto

News: Russia Today reports transnational corporations that develop agri-food technologies using Mexico for "experiments," points out 29 of country's 32 states have planted GM corn seeds in experimental phase, notes 2013 class action lawsuit has curbed number of permits granted for sowing of transgenic corn

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's MidiaNews reports Federal Supreme Court Defense Minister Gilmar Mendes dismisses charges against himself and two of his brothers, says their farms "regularly licensed," after prosecutors charged brothers with planting transgenic foods, using pesticides excessively

News: Brazilian news site reports Minister Gilmar Mendes admits owning farms in environmentally protected area but denies using agrochemicals

Commentary: Brazilian environmental NGO notes state prosecutor filed 2 lawsuits against Federal Supreme Court minister for planting GMOs, using pesticides and fertilizers, says they are concerned about impact on Area of Environmental Preservation where the farms are located

News release: Greenpeace Mexico presents report, "Biosecurity in Mexico," analyzing granting of transgenic soy permit for Monsanto and illegal planting of GM soy in state of Campeche, concluding country's biosecurity measures regarding GMOs have failed or are ineffective in guaranteeing protection

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports member of Parliament says justification by Western Australia's agriculture and food minister for backing inquiry into GM crops "factually incorrect," calls inquiry politically motivated, warns it may ultimately restrict profitability of WA's grain growers

News: Australian science publication reports use of GM plants for food has long way to go in country, despite estimates that GM crops have increased farmers' incomes worldwide; notes GM produce controversial in some countries, where health and environmental advocates argue against their use

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 on a recently announced agreement of interagency cooperation between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Okanagan Specialty Fruits announced that its latest non-browning apple had received Canadian approval. Colombian news outlets reported on a regional book tour by science communicator José Miguel Mulet.

- The FDA and USDA announced a new agreement yesterday to boost interagency collaboration, highlighting specifically some of the regulatory concerns around food safety oversight. A joint news release noted that some food products must currently meet food safety guidelines set forth by both agencies, while others are only regulated by one agency. The announcement also noted that the agencies see opportunities to modernize biotechnology regulations; however, no specific policy proposals were discussed. **See more**
- The Intrexon subsidiary Okanagan Specialty Fruits announced that it had received Canadian approval for its Arctic Fuji apple, the latest in its line of gene-edited, non-browning apple varieties. The news release noted that the fruit received U.S. approval in September 2016 and would be available in some U.S. cities this fall. **See more**
- Colombian news outlets reported on the latest book tour of Spanish researcher and science communicator José Miguel Mulet. In interviews with *Agencia EFE* and *El Tiempo*, Mulet criticized anti-biotechnology activists such as Greenpeace for manipulating the public and using fear to undermine the potential health and environmental benefits of agricultural biotechnology. **See more**
- Ugandan science reporter and agriculturalist Isaac Ongu, writing for *New Vision*, criticized President Yoweri Museveni's decision not to sign the country's biotechnology bill. He added that the key concerns highlighted in Museveni's rejection of the measure were already addressed in the country's National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy of 2008. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: U.S. FDA and USDA announce formal agreement to boost inter-agency coordination and collaboration, including partnership in key areas such as implementation of produce safety measures and biotech efforts

News: Politico Pro reports on signed agreement between Ag Secretary Perdue and FDA Commissioner Gottlieb to improve inter-agency coordination, including a more collaborative approach to modernizing biotech regulatory framework

News release: Okanagan Specialty Fruits promotes government approval of its third non-browning GE Arctic Apple variety, as Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada find Arctic Fuji variety poses no greater risk to human health than other apples available on market

News: British Columbia news source reports local company that pioneered non-browning apples with GE Arctic Apple gets approval from Canadian Food Inspection Agency for modified Fuji variety of Arctic

Apple; CFIA rules new variety doesn't pose greater risk to human health than apples currently on Canadian market

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project publishes second of four-part series examining impact of genetic engineering, explaining why animal breeders worldwide being blocked from using genetic engineering, blaming situation on over-regulation by governments, opposition from anti-GMO groups

Commentary: Julie Gunlock of Independent Women's Forum blogs about potential for GMOs to help alleviate world hunger, criticizes "radical green activists" for telling Africans that GMO crops associated with numerous health problems, which has led to some African nations banning GMOs

Campaign: Moms Across America creates list of Monsanto human rights violations to share at Monsanto board meeting with call to cease and desist actions, asserts company products resulted in crimes against pollinators

Commentary: Moms Across America shares comments presented by Zen Honeycutt and Anne Temple at Monsanto's annual shareholder meeting in St. Louis, they re-emphasized glyphosate health claims, claimed GMOs are not helping to feed the world

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Agriculturist Isaac Ongu writes for Uganda's New Vision, criticizes President Museveni's "insensitive" flip-flop on GMO policy, notes all concerns raised by civil society organizations are addressed in the biosafety bill's 10 strategic areas

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on statement by Science and Technology Research Institute's Richard Ampadu Ameya urging people not to conflate biotechnology with the Plant Breeders Bill, explaining that the two are not entirely related

News release: Ghanaian news source publishes release from Food Sovereignty Ghana touting role of its director in debate on GMOs sponsored by Ministry of Food and Agriculture, claiming only two of 47 people in room raised their hands in favor of GMOs after four other people on panel spoke in support of them

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's assurance that NBMA is committed to ensuring safe use of GMOs, following recent negative statements by Health of Mother Earth Foundation

More Africa items

Asia

News: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update reports on Jan. 23 gene editing and genomics seminars at the Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines Los Banos; Dr. Zachary Lippman of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) in New York, and Dr. Byoung-Cheorl Kang of Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea presented the seminars

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Javier Jimenez of Spain's Xataka criticizes Vandana Shiva's "lies," says her support of peasant struggles became an anti-science crusade; argues that there is a moral imperative to use golden rice, points to number of lives it would save

Video: PlayGround posts Facebook video in which Vandana Shiva talks about the "deceitful" modern system of agriculture, charges it produces "fake food," that it is costly for planet and producers but made to look cheap for consumers, cites production with GMOs and patents and royalties as "high-cost"

News: U.K.'s Horticulture Week reports senior plant geneticist at Rothamsted Research says European Court of Justice's "landmark opinion" on definition of GMOs could pave way for revival of crop biotechnology in Europe

News release: Supermarket chain LIDL Switzerland promoting its participation in transnational Lidl Soy Initiative, which aims to gradually increase global share of certified, sustainable and non-GMO soybeans; Lidl Germany and Lidle Austria also working with ProTerra

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Bolivian newspaper El Tiempo interviews Spanish molecular biologist Jose Miguel Mulet about his book, "Transgenics Without Fear," he says campaign against GMOs has little information to support it, asserts world no longer can live without GMOs, opposition to them "really stupid"

News: Spain's Agencia EFE reports on interview with University of Valencia molecular biologist Jose Miguel Mulet, on tour in Colombia to promote his book, "Transgenics Without Fear," notes Mulet points out transgenics not proven to cause any health or environmental problems after 20 years in use

News release: GRAIN, as part of Latin American Seeds Collective, announces release of documentary, "Seeds: commons or corporate property?", depicting efforts to protect indigenous and native seeds in several Latin American countries

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	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:02:13 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 and commentary on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) decision to open a consultation on its risk assessment process. Regional media outlets reported on the opening of a new biosafety laboratory in Namibia, while a Rwandan news outlet noted concerns about that country's draft biosafety law.

- A Washington law firm analyzing the European Commission's public consultation on the EFSA risk assessment process highlighted the role of the glyphosate debate as a "stalking horse" for regulations on GM crops. The commission's Jan. 23 release indicated its decision to take public comments was made in response to comments received during the European Citizens' Initiative on glyphosate. **See more**
- News outlets in Namibia reported on the grand opening of the country's National Biotechnology, Testing, Training and Research Laboratory. At a press event, researchers emphasized the facility's importance to fulfilling obligations under the recent biosafety act and noted that the testing process would prevent illegal GMO products. **See more**
- Following up on a Jan. 26 report, Rwanda's *The New Times* reported that local researchers and politicians were concerned that multinational companies may have had a role in drafting the country's proposed biosafety law. The draft law will be reviewed by the Rwanda Law Reform Commission before potentially being introduced to parliament. The report quoted a veterinary researcher who claimed that civil society groups around the world were concerned about diseases and deformities linked to GM crops. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Bernard D. Goldstein of University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health writes for The Hill, argues President Trump is correct in his recent assessment that the EU misuses the precautionary principle to ban American ag produce

Commentary: Futurism lists five ways gene editing will transform world, touts promise of CRISPR to create new, healthier foods, notes distinction between GMOs and GE crops, speculates CRISPR could eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitoes

Commentary: U.S. News and World Report runs op-ed by former USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack warning that food labels playing on consumer fears, such as "non-GMO," could hurt consumer confidence in food system; highlights dairy companies that put "non-GMO" labels on their milk

News: Roast Magazine's Daily Coffee News runs lengthy piece about how genetic engineering may be used to save coffee from effects of climate change, diseases, notes genomic editing and CRISPR could allow scientists to edit coffee genome

News: MediaPost reports Stonyfield's former creative agency, GYK Antler, issues statement clarifying that Stonyfield is no longer a client, and that it did not create or take part in the recent video campaign,

nor does it support Stonyfield leadership's response

Commentary: Medium posts blog by self-described microbiologist criticizing Stonyfield for anti-GMO video that used children, reporting he was among those banned from posting comments on organic dairy company's website, sampling similar comments from other banned science communicators

Commentary: Yale Neurologist Steven Novella criticizes recent Stonyfield video, notes it makes connection between anti-GMO fearmongering and organic explicit, believes the ad is a microcosm of all problems with using false narratives to market pseudoscience

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for Ag Daily, examines backlash surrounding Stonyfield's recent ad featuring young children spreading misinformation about GMOs, criticizes them for banning comments pointing to flaws in their claims

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Writing at Alliance for Science, former activist Mark Lynas says new Ugandan biosafety draft would threaten jail times for plant researchers over "commingling" concerns, could fine regulators for GMO "inconvenience"

News: Rwanda's New Times reports on debate surrounding Rwanda Environment Management Authority's (REMA) draft GMO regulation, University of Rwanda genetics lecturer Martin Ntawubizi voiced concerns about involvement of multinationals

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on Namibia's opening of GMO testing laboratory, Namibia's Higher Education Minister, Itah Kandjii-Murangi noted building local food safety assessment capacity will enable informed decision making

News: Namibia's New Era reports the National Biotechnology, Testing, Training and Research Laboratory will help Namibia make evidence-based decisions on GMOs, and ensure that only approved products are traded, according to Dr. Lisho Mundia

News: The Namibian reports on launch of National Commission for Research, Science and Technology's (NCRST) biotech testing, training and research laboratory, biotech manager Paulus Mungeyi noted lack of capacity and resources has led to misinformation

More Africa items

Asia

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Asia during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Esther Samper of Spain's El Diario examines latest biotech developments with potential to benefit humanity, such as golden rice recently approved by Australia and New Zealand, notes opposition is more ideological and irrational than science-based

Commentary: French pro-ag blogger Seppi explains EU Court of Justice Advocate General's opinion on products of mutagenesis, criticizes original complaint brought forward by NGO Confederation Paysanne, laments lack of rationality in the debate

News release: EU Commission announces public consultation period through March 20 regarding transparency and sustainability of EU risk assessment, acknowledging citizens' concerns about EFSA's assessments based on industry studies on pesticides and GMOs

Commentary: Lisa Campbell, James Aidala and Lisa Burchi of Bergeson & Campbell believe EU Commission's public consultation on EFSA risk assessment is of significant interest to stakeholders regarding transparency

News release: French farmers NGO Rural Coordination expresses skepticism about speech by President Emmanuel Macron, questions his intentions to save French agriculture in EU, asserts food sovereignty can only be solved by Common Agricultural Policy reformed in depth and protecting imports of soya

Event: French anti-GMO NGO inf'OGM promotes "Do No GMO" trade show and conference to be held Feb. 3, 10, 13 and 18 in cities around France, with general theme of "Wheat farmers, local solutions, peasant seeds, alternatives to GMO wheat"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts blog by Legal Affairs Fellow from Guatemala discussing how Argentina and Brazil are merging law, science to regulate new breeding techniques, with both countries using case-by-case assessments

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto legal director Rodrigo Ojeda de Konin says new GM technologies will improve livelihoods for "thousands," adding there is no scientific or medical evidence to support claims of health risks; Monsanto waiting for legal ruling in Yucatan

News: Bolivian news site reports Santa Cruz agricultural sector will propose eight GM crops, two varieties each of soybean, corn, cotton and sugar cane; Interagro official calls on comprehensive government regulations for the new technologies, adding Bolivia has a significant technological gap compared to peers

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Royal Society Te Aparangi promotes expert papers on gene editing, encourages New Zealanders to share views on potential uses of gene editing in country; future papers will outline scenarios for use of gene editing in agriculture, will examine current legislation and regulation

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 9:03:47 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 included continued criticism about Stonyfield Farm's ad using children to criticize GMOs and its removal of reactions from its Facebook page. Mexican news sources reported indigenous Mayan communities will get legal support from the Campeche state government to oppose GM soy and other GM crops.

- Biotechnology advocates continued to criticize Stonyfield's ad featuring young girls spreading misinformation about GMOs. Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health called the ad sexist, arguing it sends a message that girls can't understand science. Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield criticized the company for censoring thoughtful, science-based comments on its Facebook page. Karen Batra wrote on BIOtech Now that "social media activity has been swift" in response to the ad and reported a "Banned by Stonyfield" Facebook group has been created. **See more**
- *La Jornada Maya* reported 38 indigenous Mayan communities will receive legal support from the Campeche state government in their fight to oppose the planting of transgenic soy and GM crops. Mexico's *Tribuna de Campeche* reported Campeche signed an agreement with the states of the Yucatan Peninsula to prevent planting of GM crops, adding Roberto Iván Alcalá Ferráez of the state Environment Ministry noted protocol for this protection is given in the COP13 framework. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Forbes contributors Cameron English and Kavin Senapathy provide "Insider tips for conversations with those who reject empirical scientific truths" for "fraught subjects like food, health and environmental policy"

Commentary: Writing for The Liberty Beacon, Christina Sarich highlights newly-opened San Francisco lab that detects microscopic levels of glyphosate in food, soil samples, says scientific discourse suggests glyphosate is much more toxic than biotech industry has revealed

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health criticizes Stonyfield's recent ad featuring young girls spreading misinformation about GMOs as sexist, argues it sends a message that girls can't understand science

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines backlash following Stonyfield's ad featuring young girls spreading misinformation about GMOs, criticizes the company for censoring thoughtful comments posted on its website

Commentary: Caroline Seydel of Genetic Literacy Project examines developments in gene drives to control mosquitos and spread of diseases like Zika, highlights UC Riverside entomologist Omar Akbari's development of mosquitoes with their own molecular scissors

News: Agri-Pulse reports pig farmer says CRISPR could bring better disease resistance against porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome; genome amendments could also be significant to human health;

biotech expert Alison Van Eenennaam says FDA defining all intentional DNA alterations in animals as drugs is nonsensical

News release: Center for Food Safety issues comment on federal appeals court's denial of FDA's attempt to withhold government documents showing how agency arrived at decision to approve GE salmon for human consumption; CFS and Earthjustice co-counsels in case, representing coalition of groups, including Friends of the Earth

More North America items

Africa

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes report summarizing national seed dialogue and celebration held in December 2017 in Johannesburg, focusing on issues for smallholder farmers and seed diversity in South Africa, including seed banks and seed saving, farmer participation in plant breeding, crop improvement

News: Nigeria's The Tide reports on Nigeria Agribusiness Group Coordinator Emmanuel Ijewere's argument that embracing GMOs will help boost food production and extend shelf-life while using less labor and fewer natural resources, pointing to safe use in the U.S.

News: Kenyan news site reports CRISPR is the most simple, efficient tool for gene manipulation, could be effective for HIV, cancer and cardiomyopathy treatment

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Namibia opens country's first lab for testing food for GMOs, government official says testing crucial to ensure only GMOs and GMO products approved for use in Namibia on market, asserts country suffered misinformation on GMOs because of lack of detection capacity, training in biotechnology

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Belgian-based NGO talks to Vandana Shiva about her advocacy for food sovereignty and agroecology; she claims Monsanto's transgenic seeds have resulted in exponential price increases, are responsible for "genocide" of Indian farmers

Report: EFSA releases technical report on GMOs with explanatory note on selection of forage material suitable for risk assessment of GM feed of plant origin, notes definition of forage varies on crop-by-crop basis, provides crop-specific definition of forage for maize, soybean, sugar beet, rapeseed, cotton

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service issues GAIN Report on new mandatory labeling requirements for GE feed in Ukraine entering into force in January 2020

News: Reuters reports on EU antitrust investigators' extension of their investigation of Bayer-Monsanto deal by five working days, until March 12, Bayer now has until Feb. 5 to propose concessions such as asset sales

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada Maya reports 38 indigenous Mayan communities to get legal support from state government in fight to oppose planting of transgenic soy, other transgenic crops in their soils

News: Brazilian news source reports public prosecutor's office files two lawsuits against Supreme Court

Justice Gilmar Mendes for uncontrolled use of pesticides and irregular planting of transgenic crops in a preservation area, lawsuit asks Mendes' family to stop planting transgenic crops within two years

News: Mexico's Tribuna de Campeche reports Campeche signs agreement with states of Yucatan Peninsula to prevent planting of GM crops, Roberto Ivan Alcala Ferraez of state Environment Ministry noted protocol for this protection is given in COP13 framework

News release: Spanish NGO GRAIN promotes new documentary produced by Latin American Seeds Collective, "Seeds: commons or corporate property?", which depicts rural and indigenous peoples of eight Latin American nations struggling against seed laws, imposition of transgenic seeds

News: Bolivian news source reports agricultural producers of Santa Cruz hope government approves release of transgenic seed varieties of soybeans, corn, cotton, sugar cane, say it would shorten time to have improved seeds, events with recognized successes

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food Navigator reports on GE Free New Zealand's call for Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to review its draft approval for Golden Rice, GE Free NZ President Claire Bleakley called for 90-day feeding trials, questioned its efficacy

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 29, 2018
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 4:05:11 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Stonyfield Farm stirred up considerable controversy with its latest bid to demonize GMOs. Using a video featuring children to spread questionable claims about biotechnology, the organic giant co-founded by Gary Hirshberg has become the recipient of significant backlash from food and agriculture communicators upset by this fear-mongering tactic.

We've included examples of these articles from Kavin Senapathy, Amanda Zaluckyj and the "Science Moms" below, and more can be found by clicking here. Stonyfield raised eyebrows again when it decided to delete comments from its Facebook page that criticized the video.

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

ActionAid is a global advocacy NGO with annual budgets exceeding U.S.$200 million whose country missions have aggressively opposed the introduction of agricultural biotechnology in developing markets.

ActionAid Uganda was recently

Stories Worth Sharing

Kavin Senapathy: Stonyfield goes too far by using children to perpetuate myths about biotechnology

Amanda Zaluckyj: Stonyfield taken to task for anti-GMO video, responds with "glaring lies"

Dr. Guy-André Pelouze: Flawed decisions made when glyphosate policymakers carelessly substitute risk for hazard

Bernhard Url: Some campaigners unwilling to accept evidence certain substances are safe, retort with weak scientific studies

Science Moms: "Beyond the pale" for Stonyfield to use children for fear-based anti-GMO video

Alex Berezow: Science has "definitively shown" organic food is not healthier - and it isn't pesticide-free either

Frank Giles: Why would orange juice brand embrace Non-GMO Project and its false claims when biotech may save the citrus industry?

Wandile Sihlobo: Last year's harvest proof that other African nations should follow South Africa's lead and permit GM crops

Corry Elyda: Biotechnology a "logical solution" for poverty, food insecurity in Indonesia and beyond

investigated by government authorities for money laundering and using foreign donor cash to illegally lobby the Ugandan Parliament to influence local political issues. ActionAid Uganda led local efforts to block GMO biosafety enabling legislation.

LEARN MORE about ActionAid's global NGO network and local activities promoting organic, agroecology and anti-GMO philosophies throughout the globe.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Renee Pinel: Science overwhelmingly proves glyphosate is safe, but activists cite IARC as "gospel proof" experts are wrong

Steve Cerier: CRISPR puts humankind "on the verge of a genetic revolution" in how food is grown

Science Codex: Court bases ruling on Dannon labeling on science, dismisses plaintiffs' arguments about "feelings"

George Omondi: Kenyan president turns to genetically modified cotton to create 50,000 jobs

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What's Trending?

Stonyfield Farm draws backlash from involving children in fear-mongering, anti-science video on GMOs

Cambridge scientists: Despite misleading NGO campaigns, managed bees are livestock instead of conservation issue

French president promises not to ban glyphosate unless credible alternative is available

Industry groups launch coalition demanding reform to International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph program

Calendar highlights

January 29-31	January 30-31	January 31
Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management	Sustainable Foods Summit North America	Sustainable Use Directive symposium on integrated pest management
February 1-2	**February 3**	**February 6-8**
European Commission workshop on EDC guidance applicability	French Festival Without GMOs (Faites Sans OGM)	Africa regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued commentary on Stonyfield Farm's ad using children to criticize GMOs and its removal of science-based reactions from its Facebook page. The Armenian Parliament conducted a hearing on GMOs as legislation on GMO imports is being drafted.

- Biotechnology advocates criticized Stonyfield Farm for removing polite, scientifically accurate comments from its Facebook page. Organic Authority reported Stonyfield's official reply called some of its critics "trolls." The comments reacted to a Stonyfield video that used children to criticize GMOs. *AGDAILY* posted an open letter from a group whose comments were deleted. Kevin Folta argued comments were removed because when "social media erupts with scientific comments in a kind vein, it makes their loyal customer base wonder if they are doing the right thing by paying more for equivalent products and/or supporting a company that lies to consumers." **See more**

- During an Armenian Parliament hearing on GM food, president Karine Danielyan of the NGO For Human Sustainable Development said GMO products cause "allergenic diseases," counteract antibiotics, are "transmitted from generation to generation" and cause diseases not recognized by modern medicine. A musician from a heavy metal rock band urged Armenians to avoid GMOs. A deputy minister said the country is developing legislation to regulate GMO imports. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: The Greeley Tribune editorial says it's time to trust GM crops, blames social media for scientific ignorance it's easier to scare people; notes we will need GM crops to increase yields as available farm land shrinks

News: Modern Farmer reports on increased competition in U.S. soybean market following Monsanto's recent trouble with dicamba, BASF and DowDuPont are likely to release new GM soybean varieties soon

Commentary: Layla Katiraee writes for Genetic Literacy Project, dispels myth that geneticists who work for corporations are less ethical than those who work for universities

Commentary: Florida Grower editor writes for Growing Produce site, says non-GMO Project makes false claims regarding GMO safety, says it is bothersome to see major orange juice brand with non-GMO label when GM orange tree may save industry from citrus greening

Commentary: The Cato Institute's "Regulation" magazine runs article co-written by Henry I. Miller arguing FDA regulations have nearly destroyed promising sector of genetic engineering of animals, in which United States had been poised to play leading role, calling for switching FDA's jurisdiction over GM animals to USDA, EPA

Commentary: Hillary Bonhomme of The New Food Economy examines Bananacoin, a new blockchain option for investing in organic banana production, notes there is no blockchain option for investing in

GM bananas

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports anti-biotech NGO HOMEF accuses biotech regulator of being complicit in illegal GM maize importation, says it "dashes any hope of safe biosafety regime"

Commentary: Editorial for Rwanda's The New Times calls for more debate on GMOs, believes Rwanda Environmental Management Authority's draft GMO regulation should not be hurried, but informed by science to protect humans and the environment

News: Reuters highlights issue of fall armyworm devastating African crops, threatening food production, notes use of GM crops, pesticides similar to American farmers potentially too expensive, harmful to environment, amplifies FAO official stressing need to mix crops, use natural predators

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports Monsanto sent letter to Ag Minister Radha Mohan Singh noting it had warned about bollworm resistance to Bt cotton seed in 2015, National Seed Association of India argues the letter is admission of the technology's failure

News: U.K. price reporting agency AgriCensus reports China imposing new penalties on soybean importers that break laws on buying GMOs; Agricultural GMO Regulation Scheme designed to better regulate whole supply chain of GMO products into China, importers who break law could be suspended, their goods seized

News: Armenian news site reports deputy minister calls upon researchers to decide if GMOs are safe or not and notes Armenia's labeling requirement; says no one is "absent in the head" enough to use GMOs if they are unsafe

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news agency reports on letter signed by researchers in 13 EU countries, including Roberto Defez of National Research Council in Naples, calling for freedom of choice in GMO research, and for authorizations to be granted following EFSA approval

News: Spanish news outlet reports on debate surrounding regulation of new breeding techniques, highlights EU Court of Justice Advocate General's opinion on mutagenesis, examines various new gene-edited products approved in the U.S.

News: Reuters reports on Gates Foundation's $174 million funding for ag innovation projects in Scotland, with goal of improving livestock productivity to benefit poor farmers, potentially benefiting 100 million African farmers

Interview: Spanish news outlet interviews Vandana Shiva, she describes her activism, reiterates claims about negative impacts of industrial ag, specifically GMOs and pesticides, on human health, the environment, and developing economies, promotes agroecology

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent 48th Congress of Research and Development at Monterrey Institute of Technology, where biochemical engineer Dr. Luis Herrera Estrella lamented that opposition to GMOs prevents scientific advancement in Mexico

News: El Salvador news site reports parliament member claims GMOs "shown to produce long-term mutations," wants to regulate advertising of harmful foods

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Friends of the Earth Melbourne urges supporters to submit comments to Western Australia gov't on Farmer Protection Legislation, demanding protection for GM-free farmers that are economically disadvantaged by GM crops

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator posts documents related to risk assessment and risk management plan for RMIT University's application for limited and controlled release of buffalo grass genetically modified for herbicide tolerance and dwarf phenotype, invites public to comment,

Commentary: Radio New Zealand's Simon Morton examines advances in CRISPR gene editing, highlights several applications under development, pointing to several benefits, discusses debate surrounding regulation

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 outreach on Nigeria's recently passed biosafety law. In the U.S., organic dairy producer Stonyfield Farm responded to recent criticism of a marketing campaign.

- Nigerian stakeholders continued outreach efforts to explain the potential benefits of GM crops in the country. Speaking with reporter Nkechi Isaac, the assistant director of the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) emphasized the key role that local researchers and companies will play in introducing the crops. Nigeria Agribusiness Group Coordinator Emmanuel Ijewere told *News Agency of Nigeria* that the crops could help ensure the country's food security. **See more**
- U.S. organic dairy producer Stonyfield Farm released a Facebook video on Tuesday featuring young children expressing concern over the use of GMOs, prompting backlash from parents and ag advocates. Stonyfield issued a response, reinforcing its claims that GM crops increase the use of "toxic herbicides." The backlash was highlighted in a *Forbes* article by science communicator Kavin Senapathy. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizes Stonyfield Organic's response to criticism of its anti-GMO advertisement featuring young children, points out several flaws in their arguments

Commentary: Stonyfield Farm issues response to GMO Discussion, clarifying its position that while GMOs have not been proven harmful, the majority of GM crops are grown with "toxic" herbicides like glyphosate, pointing to IARC's review, supports labeling

News: Reuters reports on soybean seed and herbicide technology market competition, noting threats facing Monsanto that include dicamba drift concerns, related lawsuits; adds DowDupont faces greatest obstacle as it waits for Chinese regulators to approve imports of soybeans harvested from Enlist E3 seeds

Commentary: Rafi Loiederman of Dr. Bronner's blog promotes Regenerative Agriculture Certification over USDA organic certification, pointing to need for improvement in soil health management, animal welfare, and farm worker safety

Commentary: Kelsey McKinney writes for Thrillist, examining developments in CRISPR and confusion surrounding regulation of products of gene editing, argues that consumers deserve to know how their food is made

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo writes for HuffPost South Africa, argues that other

African nations should follow in South Africa's example and adopt GM crops, highlighting bumper maize harvest in 2016-17 season in spite of fall armyworm

News: Rose Gidado of Nigeria's biosafety agency tells Cornell's Alliance for Science that Bt cowpea and cotton varieties should reach farmers in 2018, highlights role of local crop developers and researchers

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on Nigeria Agribusiness Group Coordinator Emmanuel Ijewere's opinion that embracing GMOs will help tackle problems of pest infestations and food shortages, he noted organic ag does not produce enough food

News release: Mauritius Government Information Service announces workshop on "New Plant Breeding Methods for Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources and Security of Food Production," will be held at University of Mauritius from Jan. 29-31, 2018

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports on President Uhuru Kenyatta's economic revival plan, which bets on mass production of GM cotton to create 50,000 jobs and generate Sh20 billion in apparel export earnings

News: The Economist reports fall armyworm invading Africa, most all of the 35m hectares of maize grown by smallholders is affected, FAO hopes to teach farmers new techniques used in America

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies study in Environmental Health claiming to demonstrate multiple health benefits of organic agriculture, highlights findings regarding pesticide exposure, omega-3 fatty acids, and animal antibiotics

News: Indian news site reports scientists at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Mohali have used CRISPR-Cas9 to modify the banana genome for the first time; technique can be used to improve nutritional quality, agronomical traits and pathogen resistance; India largest global banana producer

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Italian NGO Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze to host Vandana Shiva for sixth round of the cycle of meetings, "On the heels of the days" on Jan. 27, she will give a talk on "Responsibility and Environment"

Commentary: French magazine Sans Transition! promotes upcoming conferences with Vandana Shiva (Feb. 21-23, 2018) who will be visiting France for the release of her new book, "Le Cercle Vertueux," co-written with Nicolas Hulot

News release: Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade announces success in agricultural diplomacy as four more countries join European Soy Declaration, to promote cultivation of sustainable and GM-free feed crops

News: EurActiv reports on recent Parliamentary event hosted by British MEP Julie Girling, where multiple stakeholders discussed how science can be used to build trust in the EU, highlights issues surrounding precautionary principle in GMO and glyphosate dabates

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet editorial argues that continued importation of food products and prohibition of GM seed use leaves Bolivian agriculture at a competitive disadvantage

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on Association of Oilseed and Wheat Producers (Anapo) President Marcelo Pantoja's assessment that release of a biotech event can take three-four years, he emphasized need for biotech crops in the sector to boost productivity

Commentary: Colombian collaborator for WATT AgNet, Alexander Barajas Maldonado, hopes CRISPR will improve public acceptance of biotech to help boost food security, notes GMOs have been used safely for years

News: Mexico's El Universal reports on controversy surrounding GM soy cultivation in Yucatan Peninsula, highlighting legal challenge brought by Mayan communities voicing concern about impact of GMOs on their honey production, and lack of consultation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE calls on Ministers on the Forum to request a review of Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval of GM golden rice, argues one carrot has same amount of vitamin A as nearly 4kg of cooked golden rice

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 Brazil's patent office was challenging Monsanto's patent on its Intacta soybean variety. Canadian activist group Vigilance OGM announced that a third-party certification group had found an herbicide-tolerance gene in crop weeds.

- *Reuters* reported that Brazil's patent office planned to side with Aprosoja over a patent dispute, finding that Monsanto's Intacta RR2 Pro did not offer technological innovation. In a follow-up report, the news agency quoted a Monsanto spokesperson who said that the company planned to argue against the decision by the court's March 22 deadline. **See more**
- Anti-biotechnology group Vigilance OGM amplified an October announcement from Quebec's grains research group that found an herbicide-tolerance gene in wild bird mustard. The activist group claimed that the findings demonstrated how GMO co-existence measures were inadequate and argued that the introduction of glyphosate-resistant canola in Canada threatened organic canola producers. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM amplifies Grain Research Center's detection of first glyphosate-resistant weed in Quebec, notes the discovery is not surprising given widespread use of glyphosate on GM crops, highlights threat to organic production

Announcement: Bill in Hawaii State Legislature would require disclosure of pesticide use and production of GE crops, establish pesticide buffer zones, prohibit open air testing of experimental pesticides and GE crops, require environmental impact statements

Commentary: Jennifer Berry of Comstock's magazine examines latest developments in genetic engineering, highlights work of Dr. Allen Van Deynze at the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center, and potential global applications of new technologies

Commentary: Steve Cerier begins first in Genetic Literacy Project's four-part series on impact of GE on our lives, with focus on GE applications in food, highlights applications to boost nutrition and to protect crops from pests and disease, examines potential of CRISPR

Commentary: Natural Blaze editor Heather Callaghan warns readers about a potential "flood of GM rice," following U.S. FDA's approval of a Chinese pest-resistant GM rice variety, notes FDA did not conduct its own experiments

Commentary: The Daily Caller runs op-ed by executive director of Climate Science Coalition defending modern agriculture against attacks by environmentalists, listing genetic engineering of plants and animals among reasons for rising farm output worldwide with better food quality and variety

News: Fast Company reports on release of book by former Humane Society official, "Clean Meat," that

argues world ready for cellular agriculture and plant-based meat revolution, claims development of Impossible Burger and lab-grown chicken points to future trend

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news source reports nation's science minister claims some media incorrectly reported that President Yoweri Museveni rejected signing National Biosafety Bill, asserts president merely seeks clarification on some issues

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes release of study, "The Green Innovation Centre in Zambia: Fighting Hunger through Corporate Supply Chains?", which discusses approach and impact of German government's Green Innovation Centre project

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Jakarta Post's Corry Elyda examines benefits of biotech, after attending CropLife's ASEAN Plant Science Primer event in Manila, argues biotech is necessary to solve problems of declining arable land, poverty and food insecurity

News: Armenian news source reports Agriculture Ministry discusses draft version of law on GMO biosafety, with government officials saying legislation would regulate, restrict import of GM products, also would label GMO products to be sold on separate shelves

More Asia items

Europe

News release: University of Zurich promotes work by its researchers who developed transgenic wheat lines with improved resistance to fungal disease powdery mildew in field trials; scientists say combination of two variations of resistance gene offers better protection with no negative effects on wheat yield

News release: German NGO Testbiotech criticizes EU Court of Justice Advocate General's opinion on new breeding techniques, believes final court decision will not likely end the debate, noting potential for regulatory gaps

Commentary: Lawrence Woodward of Beyond GM analyzes recent opinion by EU Court of Justice Advocate General regarding regulation of products of mutagenesis, argues that EU politicians and policy makers cannot ignore wishes of citizens

Announcement: EU Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety issues notice to stakeholders regarding implications for Brexit and GM food and feed applications from the U.K., businesses should carefully consider timeline before resubmitting applications

Event: De Roma in Antwerp, Belgium to host screening of "Well Fed" documentary (Jan. 23, 2018), featuring discussion with creators Hidde Boersma and Karsten de Vreugd, highlights goal of answering question of whether it is moral to oppose GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Monsanto has two months to present defense of its patent on GM Intacta soybean seeds in Brazil after authorities there suggested seed company's intellectual property rights should be revoked; Monsanto attorney says company will present arguments ahead of March 22 deadline

News: Argentina's BAE Business reports Brazilian patent office supports position of farmers' group that wants patent for Monsanto's Intacta GM soybean seed canceled in Brazil, which would prevent company from collecting royalties on profitable soy, beginning with 2019 growing season

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian agribusiness consultant Jan Davis writes for The Mercury, welcomes gene technology regulator's review of how new biotechnologies should be regulated, highlights opportunities for Tasmania, which currently has a GMO moratorium

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 9:02:13 PM

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included reporting on an agriculture forum in Italy, where Italian stakeholders discussed sustainable growth in the industry. In Spain, Vandana Shiva began a weeklong European lecture tour. In Uganda, civil society groups held a news conference to criticize the country's proposed biosafety bill.

- Italian media outlets reported on a recent forum held by Confagricoltura at which representatives of the agriculture industry highlighted the future challenges for Italian agricultural competitiveness. Among other issues raised, Italian Sen. Roberto Formigoni criticized the pernicious effects of GMO disinformation campaigns spread by advocacy groups. Senator-for-life Elena Cattaneo, meanwhile, highlighted the potential benefits of new plant breeding techniques in the region. **See more**
- Spanish news outlets highlighted Shiva's presentation at the Centre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, where she criticized industrial approaches to environmental issues. Shiva specifically criticized India's Green Revolution and accused Monsanto and other companies of undermining biodiversity and peasant agricultural systems. Shiva will presenting in Madrid on Wednesday (Jan. 24), and in Florence, Italy starting Saturday (Jan. 27). **See more**
- News outlets in Uganda reported that civil society groups continued to advocate against the country's biosafety bill. *Chimp Reports* and *Daily Monitor* quoted a Food Rights Alliance spokesperson, who told news conference attendees that the law needed to create clear guidelines for liability and redress when GM crops "contaminate" indigenous or organic varieties. **See more**

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North America

News: American Seed Trade Association president tells Successful Farming plant breeding is becoming more precise with exciting gene editing technologies such as CRISPR, though it will take time to bring products to market

Commentary: Investing consultant says new gene-editing techniques will eliminate the need for harmful GMO, end Monsanto's reign; urges investors to monitor gene tech industry for investment opportunities

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan lists several media and research articles based on USRTK's investigative work, includes Le Monde's "Monsanto Papers" series, several New York Times articles, and Carey Gillam's "Whitewash"

Commentary: Sierra Club review says Charles Mann's 'The Wizard and the Prophet' highlights research innovations that advance theories championed by Norman Borlaug, including the C4 Rice Consortium

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports Civil Society Organizations welcome President Museveni's decision not to sign the biosafety bill, Agnes Kirabo of Food Alliance echoed Museveni's concern about the name of the bill, noting it is really about GMOs

Commentary: National Biosafety Management Agency director general speech at launch of Science Cafe Nigeria says GMO controversy illustrates how gap between science, public opinion threatens innovation, adding good science journalism is a solution

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on GMO expert Joel Ochieng's statement that Kenya may conduct GM trials in June 2019, subject to Parliament's approval, he noted approval will enable Kenya to address hunger problems, pointing to challenge of high food prices

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor says AATF Bt cowpea project challenges beliefs that only agribusiness delivers transgenic crops, promotes public sector GM crop as way to reduce pesticide use, fight poverty in West Africa

Commentary: African Agricultural Technology Foundation posts article by Joseph Opoku Gakpo, examining Burkina Faso's progress in GMO research in spite to transition away from Bt cotton, highlights work on AATF's Bt cowpea project

News: Times of Swaziland reports Ag Minister Moses Vilakati issued statement that import of GM crops remains banned, reacting to applications presented to Swaziland Environmental Authority for growing GM cotton and importing GM maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on U.S. FDA approval of Chinese pest-resistant GM rice variety developed by Huazhong University research team, U.S. gov't validation of China's GMO safety testing and products could help improve Chinese gov't and public acceptance

News: China Daily reports on U.S. FDA and EPA approval of GM pest-resistant rice variety developed by Huazhong Agricultural University, the researchers are looking for U.S. commercial approval, as Chinese approval is not likely in the next few years

News: Xinhua reports on U.S. FDA approval of pest-resistant GM rice variety, Huahui No. 1, developed by Huazhong Agricultural University, the university noted it has also passed U.S. EPA safety inspections, meaning it can be sold to American consumers

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Italian ag organization Confagricoltura recently held a forum in Milan, where its president, Massimiliano Giansanti spoke about future challenges for a competitive Italian ag sector, crop protection product authorizations were also discussed

News: Italian news outlet reports on recent event by Confagricoltura, where Agriculture and Agri-food production committee president Roberto Formigoni spoke out against misinformation on GMOs, noting it prevents Italy from conducting experiments

Commentary: Angel Ferrero of Spain's Publico recounts Vandana Shiva's recent talk at Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB), in which she criticized Green Revolution ag techniques, linked GMOs and pesticides to bee population decline

News release: Navdanya announces Vandana Shiva's upcoming visit to Florence, Italy, for a meeting entitled "The multinational profit poisons the food, the earth, the planet. What is the alternative?" (Jan. 27-30)

Commentary: Common Dreams writer promotes Green Week protest against policies that prioritize industrial farming ahead of the environment, human health; Friends of the Earth activist says EU must reform common agriculture policy

News: Norwegian news outlet reports EU proposal aimed at ending deadlock on GMO approvals remains in deadlock in EU council final decision not expected until end of 2019, after EU Parliament elections

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE Free New Zealand calls on Minister for Food Safety Damien O'Connor to request that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) review its draft GM rice approval, raises concerns about possible allergenicity

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 Chinese researchers have gained U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for imports of a transgenic rice variety. In Mexico, local news outlets amplified a Greenpeace report calling on governments to hold companies accountable for environmental damage.

- English-language Chinese news services reported that a transgenic, pest-resistant rice variety developed by Huazhong Agricultural University has been approved for import by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Global Times* noted that the crop has not yet been approved for cultivation in China. **See more**
- Greenpeace International issued a report late last week calling on governments to hold major companies responsible for environmental damage caused by their activities. The report, "Justice for people and planet," accuses regulatory agencies enabling corporate abuses of power. Mexican news outlets amplified the report, highlighting the case study of Monsanto's efforts to commercialize soy in the Yucatan Peninsula. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Agri-Pulse gene-editing series says promise of gene editing rests on how int'l governments choose to regulate it; scientists, growers who support gene editing fear long approval processes, stigma that come with GMO classification

Commentary: Center for Science in the Public Interest's Gregory Jaffe questions if Trump administration will prioritize biotech laws as noted in rural prosperity report, says government should establish proportionate, risk-based oversight able to respond to new developments

Commentary: Writing for Canada Free Press, conservative policy analyst suggests hypocrisy behind Democrats' Trump racism accusations, noting party regularly uses environmental issues to prevent development in poorest nations, cites GMO opposition as example

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Mary Serumaga of Uganda's The Observer voices concern about passage of Biosafety Bill, raises questions about GMOs' impact on biodiversity, human health and food security, criticizes Gates Foundation's financial ties to Monsanto

Commentary: Claire Rousell of African Centre for Biodiversity emphasizes importance of art in promoting seed sovereignty and activism, highlights engagement with artists during preparations for National Seed Dialogue and Celebration

News: Chinese ag news outlet reports on Egyptian National Research Center's development of a new compound for boosting wheat yields in arid and semi-arid regions, in addition to GM wheat seeds, which

cannot be produced due to current laws

More Africa items

Asia

News: China policy news site reports U.S. approves China GM rice variety while China has yet to greenlight it; researchers hope U.S. position will inspire local policy change

News: China's Global Times reports on U.S. FDA approval of pest-resistant GE rice variety developed by Huazhong Agricultural University, scientist Lin Yongjun noted it cannot be grown in China as there are no guidelines to examine GE rice in the country

News: China News Service reports on U.S. FDA approval of Huazhong Agricultural University's GM pest-resistant rice variety, Chinese Academy of Sciences' Jiang Tao noted the approval recognizes China's safety assessment mechanism for GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

News: Ouest-France explains EU Court of Justice opinion on new breeding techniques, notes French Union of Seeders says decision to let states self-regulate on issue is concerning

Commentary: French pro-ag blogger Seppi criticizes platform outlined in Le Monde by group of LRM and MoDem deputies, provides history of mutagenesis, explains flaws in deputies' platform calling for France to adhere to precautionary principle regarding NBTs

News release: Dutch company Plantum welcomes EU Court of Justice Advocate General's opinion on new breeding methods, as well as Dutch gov't position that new breeding techniques should not be subject to GMO regulations, awaits EU Court's final ruling

News: EurActiv reports on ag policy debates for 2018, highlights anticipation of EU Court of Justice decision on products of new breeding techniques, likely paving the way for a legal framework, and discussion of long-term Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Commentary: German anti-GMO news site amplifies Testbiotech's accusations that Bayer and Dow manipulated data for risk assessments of recently approved triple herbicide-resistant soybean lines, highlights risks to humans and the environment

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports on Greenpeace's new report, "Justice for People and the Planet," examining 20 environmentally damaging companies, in Mexico, focus is on Monsanto's impact on Mayan communities and beekeepers, and on Bimbo

News release: Greenpeace Mexico announces publication of its "Justice for people and the planet," outlining 10 principles to stop environmental crimes and human rights violations by corporations, highlights Mayan communities' struggles against Monsanto

News: Mexico's El Sol De Tlaxcala reports local beekeeping associations request that their needs are taken into account with the General Law of Conservation, Protection and Apicultural Promotion, highlighting risks posed to hives by GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food Navigator reports on debate surrounding Australia's proposed relaxation of gene-editing regulations, senior Monash University fellow Clovis Palmer believes the proposal will face "fierce opposition," noting the technology is still in its infancy

News: Australia's Devex publishes second article in four-part series on GMOs, examines continued opposition to the technology with focus on Greenpeace and Fairtrade International, highlights concerns about health and environmental impacts, corporate influence

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 22, 2018
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 4:04:53 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As a Ugandan Parliament science committee warned of the ramifications of delaying passage of a biosafety bill and pledged to meet with the president to address his concerns, this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features two pieces that address the situation: Cameron English's article on anti-science activism and Lominda Afredaru's assessment of the confusion around GMOs in Uganda.

As questions continue to be raised about the International Agency for Research on Cancer's glyphosate monograph, Andrew Porterfield takes a closer look at the agency's recent public relations activities while David Zaruk examines its official response to an investigation by U.S. lawmakers. We also highlight an American Enterprise Institute report finding GM crops have increased yields.

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Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Environmental Health News

A project of a Virginia-based political organizing NGO, Environmental Health News (EHN) is a frequent wire service source for stories published by mainstream news and content syndicated by groups including the Organic Consumers

Stories Worth Sharing

Cameron English: Delays in approving Uganda's biosafety bill evidence of how anti-science activists can be destructive

Alex Berezow: Threatened pollinators do little to help crops, making it "gross exaggeration" to claim world will starve due to bee deaths

Andrew Porterfield: International Agency for Research on Cancer mounts PR campaign amid mounting criticism of glyphosate review

American Enterprise Institute: New York Times analysis flawed, GM crops have increased yields

David Zaruk: IARC director's defense of glyphosate review to U.S. lawmakers features diversion, misinformation and deception

Amanda Zaluckyj: Bravo to Farm Bureau for opposing non-GMO labels on products with no GM variety

Henry Miller: Public manipulated by multimillion-dollar "organic food hoax" that disparages pesticides and GMOs

Science 2.0: Scholars debunked any links between glyphosate and cancer

Lominda Afedraru: Considerable confusion among Ugandans about GMOs

Association.

Led by former endocrine-disrupting chemical activist Pete Meyers, EHN reports daily on potential public health risks due to environmental exposures and pollution. EHN reporting and editorial content endorses organic and agroecology food production while warning of "toxic time bombs" associated with synthetic chemicals, pesticides and GMOs.

Learn more about Environmental Health News HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Alex Berezow: New York Times deserves Fake News Award for consistently getting facts wrong on glyphosate, GMOs

Matt Ridley: U.K.'s 25-year environmental agenda regrettably tinged with "anti-scientific" puritanism

Okanagan president: "Significant undertaking" to educate public and overcome stigma on GM crops, including Arctic Apple

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee to investigate whether NIEHS director violated law by questioning chemical regulations

European lawmakers create committee to investigate reauthorization of glyphosate

European advocate general issues opinion on regulation of new plant breeding techniques

Ugandan members of Parliament seek meeting with president regarding his veto of biosafety bill

Calendar highlights

January 22	January 23	January 23-25
Vandana Shiva lecture in Barcelona on release of "Who really feeds the world?" essay (lecture in Madrid Jan. 24)	Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency neonic webinar	Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
January 24-27	**January 25-26**	**January 25-26**
EcoFarm Conference in California	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meets to discuss glyphosate, EDCs, neonics	Genome Engineering and Synthetic Biology conference in Belgium

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
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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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 report from the American Enterprise Institute showing that GM crops do lead to higher yields. There was continued reporting and commentary on the European advocate general's opinion on how new plant breeding techniques should be classified under GMO regulations. An Australian official proposed rule changes that would ease restrictions on research and development that uses some types of gene editing.

- The American Enterprise Institute released a report stating there is little doubt that GM crops generate higher yields and that biotechnology bans lead to lower worldwide food output.The report notes U.S. corn and soy yields have increased more than yields in the European Union since GM crops were introduced. The report rebuts claims made by reporter Danny Hakim of *The New York Times*. **See more**
- Science, food, farm, activist and worldwide news sites continued commentary and reporting on the European advocate general's opinion that mutagenesis and certain types of gene editing should be exempt from regulations governing GMOs. Michael Antoniou of King's College London called the decision "wrong and potentially dangerous," arguing that some gene editing methods produce "off-target effects" that can lead to unintended consequences. *Nature* reported that German researcher Ralf Wilhelm of the Julius Kühn Institute said scientists need to use gene editing to adapt crops for globalization and climate change. **See more**
- Australia's *Cosmos* magazine and *Xinhua* reported Raj Bhula, Australia's gene technology regulator, recommended that products produced using gene-editing techniques should not be subject to GMO regulations. "With gene editing you don't always have to use genetic material from another organism, it is just editing the (existing) material within the organism," Bhula said. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Canadian Produce Marketing Association releases statement saying country's agriculture and agri-food industry supports modernization of NAFTA, provided it upholds fair and free principles, cites modern biotech policies as example of forward-thinking trade

News release: University of Florida promotes USDA grants totaling $10.5 million for three researchers at its Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to work on citrus greening resistance or tolerance, including research on gene editing that may produce trees and fruit potentially resistant to HLB

Commentary: Rosemary Mason and Colin Todhunter write for Global Research, warning against Bayer-Monsanto merger, summarizing Mason's recent letter to chief medical adviser to U.K. government that calls on highly placed officials to act on UN report criticizing global corporations that manufacture pesticides

News: Modern Farmer reports on geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam's work using CRISPR to develop sterile, male-only cattle, highlights controversy over regulating products of gene editing, especially GE animals, in the U.S.

Interview: Food Processing Technology talks to president of Canadian company that created GM Arctic Apple about GMOs in the U.S. food marketplace, including how to develop opinions about GM products; Neal Carter says the non-browning Arctic Apple "sells itself," despite controversy over GMOs, when people experience it

Commentary: Malibu Times reviews Pierce and Keely Shaye Brosnan film 'Poisoning Paradise' screened at 2018 Malibu film festival, praises film for exposing pesticide poisoning in Kauai by agri-chemical industry, politicians' refusal to act

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports Nigerian agriculture minister asks scientists to advise government on making decisions on GMOs

News: Ugandan news source reports parliamentary committee warns delay by President Museveni in approving National Biosafety Act 2017 will have serious repercussions on lives of Ugandans, claims GMOs entering country because law enforcement has no legal framework to stop them

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on Health of Mother Earth Foundation's statement that gov't approval of GM cassava field trials is "condemnable and inhuman," Nigeria Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium's Paul Onyenekwe noted trials are highly regulated

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports Mayhco Monsanto India argues it is not to blame for pink bollworm attack on Bt cotton, and that National Seeds Association of India is deflecting blame for failing to ensure that farmers comply with proper protocol

News: Indian news outlet reports on RSS-affiliated farmers' unions Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh's (BKS) allegations that Mayhco Monsanto Biotech is blackmailing and pressuring the gov't regarding Bt cotton seeds in its recent letter

Commentary: Senior fellow at neoliberal think tank says Bangladesh doesn't need organic farming, which is all the rage in richer countries where people don't understand farming, but produces less and more expensive food using more labor, that is opposite of what poor countries need

News: India Today reports elected officials, others take part in conclave focusing on rural distress in southern India, participant calls for bringing up Seed Bill as national priority, banning import of pesticides, points out Japan, Israel and EU have prospered without GMOs

News: The Hindu reports officials with Telangana state government ask Centre to check spread of BG-III cotton seed, asserting the herbicide-tolerant variety not cleared by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, is harming country's biodiversity

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Commentator says France abandons rule-of-law in France as it caves in to small pressure groups rather than do what's best for everyone; notes abandoning airport project, Volunteer Reapers destroying GM crops in research field without being "seriously condemned"

News: Food Processing Technology reports on EU Court of Justice Advocate General Michal Bobek's opinion that products of certain mutagenesis techniques should be exempt from GMO regulation, highlights King's College London's Michael Antoniou's counterargument

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian rural news site reports agricultural producers to ask Bolivian government to approve GM traits for 4 crops

Commentary: Researchers from Brazil's Embrapa agency call transgenic technology " one of the greatest technological advances" of last few decades, helping advance agricultural production and economies

Commentary: Nicaragua's Seeds of Identity Alliance writes 12th article in 12-part series against GMO introduction for La Prensa, argues transgenic crops unnecessary in country, would cause problems, points to agroecology as best alternative for food security, sovereignty

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Xinhua reports on Australia's Gene Technology Regulator (GTR) Raj Bhula's call for changes to GMO regulations, to exempt new genetic technologies from being classified as "genetic modification"

News: Australia's Cosmos magazine reports country's gene technology regulator proposes shake-up of rules surrounding GE processes that could exclude CRISPR from constraints on research and development, notes opposition to proposal expected, with even some experts in field advising caution

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 opinion released by the European advocate general on whether certain new plant breeding techniques should be classified under GMO regulations. In Ghana, an official with the Ministry for Food and Agriculture said the country was assessing the use of GM crops under a jobs program.

- The European advocate general, Michal Bobek, issued an opinion on whether certain new plant breeding techniques fall under Europe's Directive 2001/18/EC regulating GMOs. The opinion clarifies that, while the GMO directive can apply to processes where no new genetic material is introduced, the new mutagenesis techniques should be excluded given precedent in how previous mutagenesis-derived crops were regulated. **See more** European advocacy groups were quick to respond to the decision. Friends of the Earth said the opinion would open the door to "new GMOs" and urged the court to disregard the opinion when it makes its final judgement later this year. Inf'OGM argued that the opinion ignored the spirit behind the current mutagenesis exemption, which had been based on a long-term record of safety. **See more**

- In an interview with *Ghanaian Times*, the deputy director for crop services at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Solomon Gyan-Ansah, said that Ghana was considering whether to introduce GM crops under its "Planting for Food and Jobs" program. The minister noted that the country would only consider locally developed GM crops, highlighting a current field trial of Bt cowpea. **See more**

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North America

News: Farm Journal reports group of ag industry stakeholders form new coalition, Americans for Farmers and Families, to help advocate for U.S. involvement in free trade agreements, especially NAFTA

Commentary: Stanford University Hoover Institution's Miller claims public manipulated by multi-billion-dollar "organic food hoax" which profits from misleading advocacy disparagement of GMOs and pesticides

Commentary: Alberta Farmer Express columnist says her experience visiting farms around the world proves there is place for organic, GM and conventional ag, adding farmers should enjoy the benefit of choosing what works best for them

Commentary: Medium posts GMO Answers piece by North Dakota farmer Laura Rutherford, where Rutherford says farmers and millennials want same things, "healthy real food" and share love for environment, adding "science in farming should be embraced, not feared"

Commentary: Op-ed by member of Occupy the World Food Prize Board in The Des Moines Register calls on World Food Prize to become "voice of regenerative agriculture for the world and to award only those who promote safe, healthy and organic food"

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian Times reports Ghana ag ministry official comments at stakeholder forum suggest government may introduce GMOs under Planting for Food and Jobs program, arguing country cannot be self-sufficient in food supply without them

Report: USDA Senegal Agricultural Biotechnology Annual notes country in process of approving biosafety process that includes expedited approval process, says public GMO education vital for consumer acceptance

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports Monsanto letter to ag minister counters National Seed Association of India allegations company is responsible for cotton crops lost to pink bollworm, asserts Bt cotton seeds are effective

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science author profiles Indian farmer who credits his success to Bt cotton, wants access to Bt brinjal, maize; accuses government of ignoring farmer needs by failing to release new GM crops

Commentary: Jim Carey of MintPress says "U.S. nervous, as more African nations begin to see China as the better choice as an economic partner, due to Beijing's fewer-strings-attached approach"; Bill Gates called "personal cheerleader" for Monsanto

More Asia items

Europe

News: News wires report European advocate general says some new plant breeding techniques should not be regulated as GMOs; Reuters notes opinion allows countries to draft own rules

News: Food and ag news outlets report on EU court opinion recommending that certain plant breeding techniques be exempted from GMO regulations; FeedNavigator quotes John Innes Centre, IFOAM-EU reps

News release: Friends of the Earth Europe criticizes opinion by European Court of Justice Advocate General for keeping door open to not requiring some new breeding techniques to undergo same risk assessment, labeling and monitoring as existing GMOs

News: EU-based media report EU Court of Justice rules majority of new breeding techniques should not fall under GMO regulations; ruling leaves states free to legislate mutagenesis organisms

News: Agence France-Presse reports seed producer Limagrain fears it may relocate its research outside of France unless state ensures better security for its activities, Limagrain's Jean-Yves Foucault noted 37 hectares of wheat were destroyed by anti-GMO activists

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Luis A. Ventura-Martinez of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies publication by Biotechnology Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, endorsing use of GMOs in agriculture, highlights assessment that coexistence is possible

News: Brazilian agricultural news site reports Rwanda Environmental Authority drafted law regulating GMOs, aim of legislation is to ensure adequate "adequate level of field protection in the transfer, handling and use of GMOs"; country seventh in Africa to release GMOs

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on investigation by ETC Group which found that peasant agriculture produces 70 percent of world's food using 25 percent of land, it highlights negative impacts of industrial ag and industry consolidation, promotes agroecology

Commentary: Nicaragua's Seeds of Identity Alliance writes 11th article in 12-part series against GMO introduction for La Prensa, raises argument that over 170 countries have applied the precautionary principle, and have restrictions on GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's ABC Rural reports country consider reforms to GM laws to cover new breeding techniques; plant biologists say technology can feed growing world; organic advocates say laws threaten trade, farmer choice

News release: Soil & Health Association of New Zealand encourages Waikato District Council to adopt precautionary provisions for any GMOs that may be trialed or commercially produced, warning about potential escape or contamination

News: Australia's Food Magazine reports global forestry company FuturaGene is latest to license CSIRO's RNAi technology, with goal of developing more resilient eucalyptus and poplar varieties to meet growing wood demand in face of climate change

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 media and activist preparation for a European Court decision on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). U.S. and Nigerian news outlets reported on controversies surrounding efforts to trial GM cowpea and cassava.

- European news outlets reported on a Belgium protest held by European Coordination Via Campesina, where peasant farming advocates warned that the agricultural industry could undermine farm incomes if allowed to easily commercialize products developed through NBTs. The activists said they had gathered to support peasant rights in advance of the European Court of Justice opinion due out Thursday (Jan. 18) on the issue. In other reports on the pending court opinion, *Le Monde* published a letter signed by French politicians who urged the country to have a "consistent" regulatory approach to GMOs and to items produced through NBTs. The politicians claimed that gene-edited crops could spread through wild populations and undermine biodiversity. **See more**

- Nigerian news outlet *Premium Times* reported on controversies surrounding Nigeria's field trials of a GM cassava, noting opposition from the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and others. Cornell University's Alliance for Science interviewed the head of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, highlighting the group's efforts to improve staple crops such as cowpea and maize. **See more**

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North America

Report: USDA previews European Court of Justice opinion on new plant breeding techniques, notes opinion could affect techniques such as site-directed mutagenesis that have been in commercial use for decades

News: Agri-Pulse reports GE salmon yet to hit U.S. supermarkets despite 2015 approval; AquaBounty waiting for new FDA labeling regulations, expects to produce first salmon for U.S. markets in late 2019 or early 2020

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter lauds measure approved at annual American Farm Bureau Federation meeting to limit non-GMO labels, saying "food products should not be labeled 'non-GMO' if there is no GMO counterpart for that product"

Commentary: Freelance science writer warns in Real Clear Science "anti-science activists can be very destructive when they get their way", cites Uganda GMO debate as evidence; adds economic freedom and free markets are important precursors to science literacy, the "obvious antidote to policies that disregard evidence"

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Premium Times reports International Institute of Tropical Agriculture gets government

permit to carry out confined field trials on GM cassava, despite opposition from some civic groups; IITA says objective of field trials to obtain storage roots of cassava with lower post-harvest degradation

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science highlights interview with regional head of African Agricultural Technology Foundation, who cites concerns that lack of food security in Nigeria could have devastating impact on other African nations, calls for use of biotech to boost production of Nigeria's staple crops

News: Uganda Soft Power News editor and former Museveni communications aide Kagingo reports on parliamentary opposition to biosafety bill led by Ethics Minister Buturo; MP coalition pledges to oppose passage of any bill which enables GMOs citing harm to organic interests and risks of human cancer rates

News: Germany's Spektrum reports researchers breeding bananas engineered to resist fungus that threatens world banana cultivation, points to differences between GE bananas and other GMOs, notes question of consumer acceptance remains

Commentary: Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International discusses Uganda's passage of 2017 law allowing large-scale field testing and commercial use of GM crops, predicts GM bananas resistant to bacterial wilt could be first product to come to market, acknowledges debate about GM crops

Study: Study in Plant Biotechnology Journal looks at provitamin A cassava biofortification; study shows biofortification enhances shelf life, a major constraint limiting use of cassava products, but unintended metabolic consequences "point to strategies for redirecting metabolic flux to restore starch production"

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports on Mahyco Monsanto letter criticizing seed association's call to stop selling Bt cotton seeds; seed association says sales on hold while pink bollworm failures investigated

More Asia items

Europe

News: France's Reporterre previews EU court opinion on whether organisms created with NBTs should be regulated the same as GMOs, explains process of gene editing through CRISPR, other technologies, cites experts who warn about dangers of off-target effects, question detectability of modifications made

News: Belgian agricultural site reports on Via Campesina march anticipating EU Court of Justice opinion on NBTs, notes peasant group concerned about seed rights and fair prices

Commentary: Le Monde posts statement signed by deputies from two French political parties calling on France and Europe to regulate and prohibit use of NBTs the same as they do GMOs, citing report that use of new techniques risks damage to adaptive capacity of biodiversity, spread of genetic modifications

News: Belgian news site La Libre previews EU Court of Justice opinion on new plant breeding techniques, notes statement will be non-binding with final decision expected mid-year

News: Politico Pro EU's morning ag news roundup reports Parliament will vote on whether to proceed with special committee to examine allegations that Monsanto abused its power when seeking glyphosate renewal, also highlights debate on new breeding techniques

Commentary: Editor for Austria's Salzburger Nachrichten posts piece arguing efforts by Western countries to ban Africa and Asia from using genetic engineering and to impose organic farming on developing nations amounts to "eco-colonialism," calling it "arrogant"

News release: German NGO No Patents on Seeds promotes its report showing European Patent Office still granting patents on plants derived from conventional breeding despite office's claims to the contrary, asserts opposition growing to patents on seeds even as companies try to expand monopolies

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Accion Ecologica summarizes concerns over Ecuador's seed law, says current draft excludes seed breeders without technical degrees and opens the door for GM crops

News: Brazilian news magazine reports on dilemma of transgenic eucalyptus trees, saying despite increased productivity and growing global demand for wood and pulp, the trees have not been sold due to environmental concerns; country's honey producers also concerned they could lose organic certification

Commentary: Nicaragua's Seeds of Identity Alliance writes tenth article in 12-part anti-GMO series for La Prensa, claims transgenic crops and associated herbicides violate human rights of "millions of people"

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

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a prominent European organic advocacy group issuing a statement calling for new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) to be regulated as GMOs. In Burkina Faso, growers groups called for the reintroduction of Bt cotton.

- In a news release, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) called for European regulations on GM crops to include products of new plant breeding techniques and mutagenesis, anticipating Thursday's European Court of Justice opinion. The group was joined in its call by the European branch of IFOAM and the Spanish Society of Agriculture/Agroecology. **See more**
- In Burkina Faso, the Movement for Development and Social Awakening (MODES) held a news conference in which growers called for the reintroduction of Bt cotton. The group pointed to Burkina Faso's recent drop from the top cotton-producing spot in Africa. Members of the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina (UNPCB) also called for the country to reassess its decision to stop using the trait. **See more**
- French seed producer Limagrain told news outlets that it may need to reassess the location of its headquarters following local vandalism of its crop trials. The company criticized the advocacy group Faucheurs Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) for uprooting over a year of work on non-GMO wheat that the group mistook for a genetically modified crop. **See more**
- Officials in Maharashtra announced that they would no longer allow seed sellers to "co-market" GM crop traits, arguing that the re-branding confused farmers and created difficulties in tracking seed sources. The Federation of Seed Industry of India, meanwhile, responded to the state's efforts to seek damages for failed Bt crop traits. The group claimed that the state had not properly assessed the damages. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Ugandan journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines problems with public confusion over GMOs, notes many people are opposed to hybrid crops as well, emphasizes importance of science communication

News: Agri-Pulse runs second installment of seven-part series on gene editing, quotes experts about new tools being developed, including CRISPR and TALEN, describes how they work and what benefits could result from their use

News: Seafood Source reports AquaBounty issues underwritten public offering expected to raise $12 million to help it build and operate more U.S. production facilities; company has developed GE salmon that grow faster, with Health Canada approving sale of product for human consumption in 2016

News: Nebraska newspaper reports on remarks by retired CEO of Tyson Foods at University of Nebraska lecture series; Donnie Smith says "urban myths" about agriculture can hurt industry, such as reports about "pink slime" in ground beef and false claims about GMOs

News: Kentucky NPR affiliate reports on University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Specialist Paul Vincelli's statements at recent Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Lexington, he highlighted ability of GM technology to reduce aflatoxins in crops like corn

News: Agweek reports federal Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity presents Trump with report about improving life in rural areas, including "call to action" on harnessing innovation, listing recommendations related to biotechnology, such as using science-based regulations for GM products

More North America items

Africa

News: Agence de Presse Africaine reports on Burkina Faso's National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina (UNPCB) campaign for return of Bt cotton, highlights the country's previous partnership with Monsanto, and concerns about fiber quality

News: Burkina Faso's Le Pays reports on press conference on Bt cotton by Movement for Development and Social Awakening, growers delegation led by Casimir Gnoumo lamented that Burkina Faso lost rank as top cotton producer in Africa following switch to conventional

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports farmers call for return of Bt cotton, cotton producer Casimir Gnoumou noted conventional cotton requires significantly more pesticide inputs than Bt

News: Cote d'Ivoire news outlet reports on controversy surrounding Parliament's Commission for Research, Science, Technology and Environment's validation of biosafety bill, Korhogo Agricultural Cooperative warned about Burkina Faso's experience with Bt cotton

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes new report, "Status report on the SADC, COMESA and EAC harmonised seed trade regulations: Where does this leave the regions' smallholder farmers?", provides background and update on seed trade and marketing policy

News: News of Africa reports on Nigeria Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium President Paul Onyenekwe's reaction to Health of Mother Health Foundation's opposition to GM cassava trials, calling their criticism "misguided, unjustified and unpatriotic"

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Financial Express reports on Maharashtra gov't decision to ban practice of co-marketing Bt seed brands by seed companies, arguing that selling the same seed under different brand names misleads farmers, and makes legal action difficult

News: Press Trust of India reports on Federation of Seed Industry of India's (FSII) statement in response to Maharashtra gov't decision to hold seed firms responsible for Bt cotton crop losses, arguing the gov't failed conduct a proper assessment of the damage

News: Press Trust of India reports Bayer expects Competition Commission of India to approve its acquisition of Monsanto by April or May, Bayer's Richard van der Merwe hopes all litigation issues over royalties for Monsanto's Bt cotton is resolved by mid-year

News: China's Produce Report reports the Philippines exported 340 tons of papaya to China in 2016, DOLE noted all of its papayas exported to China are non-GMO products from its self-owned orchards in the Philippines, which it believes makes them stand out

More Asia items

Europe

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - EU (IFOAM - EU) and

Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture/Agroecology (SEAE) welcome organic ag sector's adoption of global position that new breeding techniques be regulated as GMOs

Commentary: Eric Meunier of Inf'OGM amplifies Ifoam - Organics International's position that products of new breeding techniques must be submitted to same risk assessments and labeling as GMOs, awaits European Court of Justice decision on the issue

News: Agronews Castilla y Leon reports on IFOAM - Organics International's reiteration of position that GMOs, including new breeding techniques, have no place in organic agri-food system, voicing concern about lack of regulation of new techniques

News release: IFOAM - Organics International announces organic movement reaffirms its opposition to GMOs, argues there is no legal or scientific reason not to consider products of new breeding techniques as GMOs

Commentary: Italian environment magazine Terra Nuova warns readers about potential entry of "new" GMOs into the EU, argues that products of new breeding techniques carry same health and environmental risks as products of traditional transgenesis

Commentary: Blogger for France's Factuel promotes newsletter by Collective for a Franche Comte without GMO, sent to all farmers in the area, and funded by Regional Council of Burgundy Franche Comte, regional Biocoop stores and Confederation Paysanne du Doubs

News: Italian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry's adoption of four-year supervisory plan on introduction of GMOs into the environment, to verify and monitor trade and cultivation activities, ensure and monitor compliance

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Monsanto's Brazilian unit to run field tests with GM soy seed INTACTA2 XTEND in Brazil in 2019-2020 crop, hopes to launch variety commercially the following year; GM seeds engineered to resist dicamba, which caused controversy in USA in 2018 over claims product sprays drifted

Commentary: Peruvian news outlet editorial criticizes gov't response to excess potato supply, including increased imports of potatoes with transgenic content without supervision from the state

News: Mexican news outlet reports on FAO general director JosÃ© Graziano Da Silva's assessment that while GMOs are safe and can help address climate change, they should not be used in genetic centers of origin, as is the case of Mexico with corn

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australia's Devex begins four-part series on GMO debate, examines argument in favor of GMOs to help boost global food security, highlights controversy surrounding multinationals, as well as Food Evolution documentary

News release: Australian Greens Agriculture Spokesperson Diane Evers calls on farmers to make submissions to cross-party Parliamentary inquiry regarding compensation for Western Australian farmers who suffer losses due to GM contamination

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder Events Bonus Eventus

database	calendar	community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 15, 2018
Date: Monday, January 15, 2018 4:39:57 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Each spring, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-backed Bee Informed Partnership sets off a wave of media coverage by releasing its annual survey estimating the percentage of honeybee colonies that failed over the past year. But is this voluntary survey of beekeepers really a valuable, important measure of bee health?

This week's newsletter features a piece by Genetic Literacy Project executive director Jon Entine explaining why the annual data can be misleading and questioning why it overshadows long-term statistics showing that the bee population has been increasing on every continent.

To view items on this newsleffer, 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

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Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Slow Food

Slow Food International took credit this week for lobbying efforts in Africa that caused Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to reject proposed biosafety legislation that would have enabled the regulated development and use of GM crops.

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: Media's focus on annual U.S. bee colony loss data overlooks stats showing bee population growing worldwide

Henry Miller: Putin using state-sponsored Russia Today to undermine genetic engineering, fracking

Brian Garst: Organic food army trying to make the most of "absurdly small" presence of glyphosate in Bigelow tea

Credible Hulk: Not plausible to claim that glyphosate alters people's gut microbiome in harmful ways

John Brennan: Biotechnology helps Europe meet U.N. sustainable development goals for food security, mitigating climate change

"Food Evolution" director: Organic supporters should stop fear-mongering and just tell the truth, even if it is complicated

Profile: Alison Van Eenennaam an advocate of GMOs who is "tough to argue with on issues like food safety"

Tim Philp: Opposition to GMOs, attraction to all-natural products ignores that "nature has been trying to kill us"

Stephan Neidenbach: Presidential candidacy would renew concerns Oprah is a "junk science enabler" who embraces anti-GMO activism

Learn more about Slow Food HERE.

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Andrew Kniss: Review reveals GM crops did not cause increase in herbicide-resistant weeds

Michelle Miller: Ashton Kutcher, Penn & Teller, Bono among celebrities supportive of GMOs

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What's Trending?

European Council of Presidents to consider setting up special committee on glyphosate renewal

Uruguayan senator seeks to block release of four GM crop varieties with injunction

La Via Campesina plans rally before European court decision on new breeding techniques

Opponents of biotechnology in Uganda seek greater restrictions and language to limit research and block commercial release of GMOs

European Commission seeks input for possible creation of EU Pollinators Initiative

University of Illinois promotes study claiming honeybees are attracted to the fungicide chlorothalonil, posing potential risk

Calendar highlights

January 16-18	January 16-18	January 18
French agriculture, health ministers to attend International Specialized Vegetable Productions Exhibition	German agriculture ministry hosts Global Forum for Food and Agriculture	European Court of Justice to issue opinion on plant breeding innovation
January 18	**January 22**	**January 23-25**
IFPRI seminar: ""Nutrition and food systems - A report by The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition"	Vandana Shiva lecture in Barcelona on release of "Who really feeds the world?" essay	Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 14, 2018
Date: Sunday, January 14, 2018 9:03:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued commentary on the Uganda President Yoweri Museveni rejecting the biosafety bill. Farmers in Burkina Faso requested a return to cultivating Bt cotton.

- Biotech advocates and opponents commented on Museveni's decision not to sign Uganda's biotech bill. Minister of Science, Technology, Innovation Elioda Tumwesigye said the bill would benefit the country and that GMOs are needed to help feed its rapidly growing population. **See more**
- During a Saturday press conference in Ouagadougou, farmers criticized the decision to use conventional cotton, which they blamed for Burkina Faso losing its ranking among top cotton producers. The farmers from the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina Faso requested a return to Bt cotton, which they said requires less pesticide use and produced higher yields. **See more**

Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Natural Blaze editor Heather Callaghan amplifies National Health Federation's accusation that Monsanto seeks to hide GMOs under Codex Alimentarius definition of "biofortified" foods

News: Infectious disease epidemiologist writes for Self news site, says "raw water" has no health benefits, is "terrible idea" that could contain contaminants, water-borne infections, harmful bacteria

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization endorses Trump administration's agricultural task force report supporting "streamlining regulations that have blocked cutting edge biotechnology," helping to unlock benefits

Commentary: Steemit blogger claims countries ban GMOs due to harmful effects on health; claims food-borne diseases increased ten-fold since GMOs introduced

News: Seeking Alpha reports on Monsanto's plans to run field trials of its Intacta2 Xtend GM soybeans in Brazil during 2019-20 season, the variety is resistant to herbicides, including dicamba

Audio: Up Close with Chris Tinney interviews Non-GMO Project's Caroline Kinsman, she voices concern about prevalence of GMOs in the food supply, opposes industry-funded safety assessments, explains services offered by Non-GMO Project

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda news site reports Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation urges country to adopt GM crops, says Uganda is better off with the biosafety law because it is able to protect the country

News: Burkina Faso news site reports farmers criticize return to conventional cotton, blame move for Burkina Faso's drop in production; note Bt cotton had higher yields, required less pesticide

Video: Uganda TV news reports on YouTube that some Parliament members changed their position to support Ugandan President Museveni in opposition to the biosafety bill, claim it's unclear and threatens local plant varieties; one Parliament member claims bribes were given to pass the bill

More Africa items

Asia

News: United News of India reports on ABLE-AG's endorsement of CRISPR gene editing technology in its latest newsletter, in which it noted gene-edited crops would not need regulatory approval due to lack of foreign genes
Commentary: India liberal-centre right magazine editor says Indian ag needs paradigm shift in which farmers find solutions to counter crop price drops, cites workshop urging farmers capitalize on Western demand for non-GMO

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico reports Angela Merkel's center-right CDU and the center-left SDP parties come to preliminary agreement to oppose patents on plants, animals if they agree to form a government

Commentary: EuropaBio's John Brennan writes for European Biotechnology magazine, argues biotech innovations must play key role in Europe's approach to achieving U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, highlights environmental and health benefits

Commentary: European Coordination Via Campesina says EU Court of Justice conclusion on mutagenesis and NBTs is crucial to uphold farmers' right to seed and consumers' ability to choose their food, announces Jan. 17 rally before the decision is announced

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Nicaraguan NGO Alliance Seeds of Identity gives fifth in series giving reasons Nicaragua should reject GMOs, claims consuming GMOs causes cancer, allergies, liver and kidney problems, claims WHO determined glyphosate to be a probable carcinogen

News: Mexico's Milenio reports on recommendation by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Director General Jose Graziano Da Silva against use of transgenic seeds in genetic centers of origin, he noted Mexico is the genetic center of origin for corn

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand news site columnist says fear of GMOs just latest in long line of fearing new things, from reading to telephones to pasteurization

Commentary: Usha B. Nair of Canada's Medical News Bulletin amplifies study in Nature Communications detailing Queensland University of Technology research team's development of fungus-resistant banana varieties, notes large-scale adoption is uncertain due to misgivings about GMOs

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 9 00:33 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 that a parliamentary committee in Ghana had recommended the country adopt the stalled Plant Breeders Bill. In the U.S., industry media outlets responded to the newly released report from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity.

- In Ghana, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Science and Technology recommended that the long-stalled Plant Breeders Bill be reintroduced and adopted. The committee noted that Ghana's Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research had developed improved plant varieties but that the organization had not received the benefits due to the country's lack of patent enforcement. **See more**
- U.S. agricultural news outlets reported on a newly released set of recommendations from President Donald Trump's Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. Among other items, the group highlighted the importance of reducing the regulatory burdens on farmers; these included modernizing the country's biotechnology assessments. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue writes opinion piece for CNN, promotes Rural Prosperity Task Force's recent report, calls for unified approach toward convincing U.S. trading partners of the value of safe biotech products

News release: The White House announces publication of Rural Prosperity Task Force's report identifying 100 actions in five key areas to help rebuild rural America, includes recommendation to modernize and streamline a science-based biotech regulatory policy

Report: USDA's Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity publishes report outlining five calls of action, section entitled Harnessing Technological Innovation promotes biotech, recommends programs to boost public acceptance, calls for science-based regulation

News: MIT Technology Review reports President Trump said the word "biotechnology" for the first time in his presidency, speaking at recent American Farm Bureau Federation meeting, he promised to streamline regulations that have blocked cutting-edge biotech

News release: American Farm Bureau Federation's 2018 Annual Convention featured talks on gene editing by University of Florida's Kevin Folta and UC Davis' Alison Van Eenanaam, they discussed importance of communication and reducing regulatory burdens, respectively

Commentary: Minnesota Agri-Women president Karolyn Zurn writes for Agri-Pulse, argues U.S. policy-makers need to embrace "innovative spirit" of private sector, highlights benefits of mergers between Bayer-Monsanto and Dow-DuPont for ag R&D

Commentary: Farm Babe lists top 8 pro-science, pro-farmer celebrities for 2018, highlighting GMO

support from Ashton Kutcher, Bono, Penn & Teller and Jimmy Kimmel

News: Alberta Farmer Express says American Farm Bureau conference featured U.S. President Trump announcing plans to streamline biotech regs, Canada ag minister MacAulay promoting U.S.-Canada relations in NAFTA deal

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana news source reports sci-tech and environment committee urges Parliament to re-introduce Plant Breeders Bill to realize benefits of seeds developed by research center to support government's Planting for Food and Jobs program

News: The Ugandan reports Parliament resumes after Christmas break, and is expected to handle 22 bills and 28 petitions, legislators hope the GMO bill will be debated appropriately, following President Yoweri Museveni's refusal to sign it last year

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on establishment of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Centres across the country, Minister of Science and Technology, Ogbonnaya Onu noted goal of using technology to promote economic development

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune's Collins Chidera analyzes National Biosafety Management Agency and Varietal Release Committee's approval for release of Bt cotton, pod borer resistant cowpea and GM cassava, calls on Nigerian gov't to adopt biotech to promote food self-sufficiency

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Philippine Star responds to reader emails, posts list of food items reported to contain GMOs that are banned in Saudi Arabia but not in The Philippines, notes they are not confirming presence of GMOs or health hazards, nor advocating a boycott

More Asia items

Europe

Event: French ecology news site Reporterre will hold meeting with theme "Ecology: Now you have to fight!" (Jan. 15), featuring reading of texts by Vandana Shiva, organized in partnership with La Maison des Metallos, Generations Futures, Oxfam and Colibris

Commentary: French ecology news site Reporterre amplifies its 2015 interview with Vandana Shiva on multinationals and climate change, ahead of its meeting on Jan. 15, where some of Shiva's texts will be read

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro, writing in La Jornada, calls golden rice "one of the most expensive myths" of biotech industry in attempt to change "widespread rejection of transgenics"; cites field experiments in India that showed golden rice atrophied other crop

Report: NGO coalition publishes report on agribusiness in Paraguay in 2017, warns "extractivist model continued to deepen," with approval of new GM corn and cotton seeds and expansion of rice monoculture

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Staff writers for Australian over-60 online community examine debate on GMOs, highlighting GM-Free Australia Alliance's concerns about possible health risks, as well as several beneficial applications of the technology

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 8, 2018
Date: Monday, January 8, 2018 4:02:26 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Despite the Ugandan president's rejection of a biosafety bill that had been approved by Parliament, there's still hope the measure could be passed. In this week's newsletter, separate pieces by Isaac Ongu and Arthur M. Makara examine the situation.

Two other pieces - by Wayne Parrott and Kathryn Zinke - explore the misleading claims of the Non-GMO Project and other similar labeling schemes, and Steve Savage writes for *Forbes* on the potential for a biotechnology solution to a looming banana shortage.

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

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth (FOE) is a multinational NGO with operations in more than 80 countries. Every week, one arm or another of FOE is engaged in lobbying and public opposition to corporations, capitalism and free trade via campaigns that target GMOs and pesticides while promoting alternative agroecology and organic

Stories Worth Sharing

Wayne Parrott: Do not fall for "marketing ploy" of non-GMO labels

Isaac Ongu: Delay in approval of Ugandan biosafety bill means more suffering against pests and diseases for farmers

Arthur M. Makara: Ugandan president's concerns with biosafety bill can be addressed to ensure passage

Steve Savage: Threat to bananas could be solved with "safe, viable, scientifically sound" technology

Kathryn Pinke: "Non-GMO Project is a sham" built on consumers' lack of understanding

Don Sanders: IARC claim that glyphosate can cause cancer is "clear-cut example of subterfuge" by activist scientists

Graham Brookes: Research shows carbon emissions would significantly increase if farmers stop using glyphosate-tolerant crops

Len Rosen: Spreading of false arguments against GMOs is immoral, led by proponents of organic farming

Gwyn Morga: "Baseless fear-mongering" stalls ag biotechnology despite unblemished safety record, use in human medicine

Alex Berezow: Preferring to push its ideology, The New York Times

production philosophies. A frequent partner with other global environmental advocacy groups such as Greenpeace and Action Aid, FOE is one of the largest green political advocacy groups in the world.

Learn more about Friends of the Earth HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

has " no interest in getting the science right" on biotechnology

Alison Van Eenennaam: Encouraging to hear viewers say "Food Evolution" documentary made them rethink GMOs

- Vancouver screening planned Jan. 16

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What's Trending?

Members of Parliament work on changes to Uganda biosafety bill after rejection by president

Claim that chocolate could vanish by 2050 unless saved by CRISPR draws attention

Indian state accepting public comments on pesticide use changes in response to farmer deaths

U.S. NIEHS director claims low doses of pesticides linked to human health risks

Calendar highlights

January 8	January 9-13	January 13
President Donald Trump speaks at American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention	American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association annual conferences	International Rosa Luxemburg Conference

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 5-7, 2018
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018 9:04:03 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued reporting and commentary on attempts to genetically engineer the cacao plant to save it from the possibility of extinction and Uganda President Yoweri Museveni's biosafety bill rejection.

- International media amplified a *Business Insider* article reporting researchers are developing genetically engineered cacao plants to help prevent the plant's extinction due to climate change. Articles in several publications questioned whether extinction is likely and commented on efforts to adapt the plant to warmer temperatures using the CRISPR technique. **See more**
- Ugandan news sites reported NGOs, environmentalists and a small farmers group praised Museveni for sending the biosafety bill back to Parliament. An official from the Ugandan Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum said while the farmers do not oppose GM seed, they have concerns regarding patented seed. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: The Washington Post food columnist Tamar Haspel writes on toxicity of debate about farming and GMOs; says while anti-organic rhetoric is "unpleasant and contemptuous, I have not seen the same level of personal, threatening vitriol that emanates from the anti-GMO sector"; adds the "single most important thing about cherry-picking science is that we all do it"

Commentary: The Organic Center responds to Mitch Daniels' article stating avoiding GMOs is anti-science, immoral; says downside includes pesticide-resistant weeds, poor farmers can struggle to afford GM seed. claims GM crops do not have higher yields

Commentary: Peter Collins Show promotes interview with authors of "What's Making Our Children Sick," Dr. Michelle Perro and Dr. Vincanne Adams, they claim GM foods and glyphosate contribute to autism and childhood illness, and disruptions in gut microbiome

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Slate, questions Monsanto's decision to invite alt-right figure Jordan Peterson to fireside chat during American Farm Bureau Federation conference, argues his expertise is not on GMOs, notes his political views are offensive to many
Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health criticizes trend of powerful institutions, such as Cleveland Clinic and The New York Times, continuing to be exempt from public accountability, criticizes NYT's coverage of GMOs

News: The Wall Street Journal posts remembrance for Calestous Juma, says Kenya-born Harvard professor fought to promote GM crops in Africa and pointed to "risks of doing nothing"

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports President Museveni rejects biosafety bill, says Uganda should protect its native seeds, doesn't want local seed to mix with GMOs for safety reasons

News: Xinhua reports environmental activists, civil society organizations praise Uganda President Museveni's decision to decline to sign bill into law that would allow GMOs into country; opponents warned National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill would eliminate local indigenous plants, animals and birds

News: Kenya news site reports country potentially facing food shortage following declined maize and wheat production caused in part by fall armyworm, notes farmer in hard-hit region says he's not sure which pesticides are effective or not, wants govt to assure which are proper ones before next planting season

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news source reports Maharashtra state government to compensate farmers who lost cotton crops to pink bollworm attacks, with some compensation provided through Maharashtra Cotton Seeds Act

News: India's Scroll reports government admits GM edible oils being imported illegally without mandatory assessment of safety for human consumption; health minister says various companies have imported GM soybean and canola oil for consumption since 2007, despite failing to get permission from Food Safety and Standards Authority

News: Times of India reports seed companies want to go back to using Monsanto's original Bt cotton seeds to fight pink bollworm; notes BG-1 seeds not patented, so companies would not have to pay Monsanto

News: Press Trust of India reports government refers GM mustard issue back to GEAC, environment minister notes no reports GM crops in field trials have not contaminated local varieties; step leaves it up to environmental minister to make call on GM mustard

More Asia items

Europe

News: Deutsche Welle reports scientists believe gene-editing of crops needed to address climate changes that threaten global food security, but environmentalists remain wary; German researchers using CRISPR-Cas9 to edit wheat genome, create new variety resistant to mildew

News: U.K.'s Daily Mail reports environment minister says GM livestock, gene-edited food could give UK farmers a boost following Brexit; notes consumers still fear "unintended consequences"

News: Italian news outlet reports on publication of Environment Minister's decree on supervision of environmental release of GMOs in Official Gazette, establishing the register of inspectors

News: Science Magazine's list of stories that could make science news in 2018 mentions EU Court of Justice expected to decide how to regulate crops modified with CRISPR, similar GE tools, notes strong public opposition to GMOs, case could determine if existing EU regulation permits similar exception for CRISPR-edited crops

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's El Universal reports on letter signed by 19 environmental organizations demanding

consultation on General Law of Biodiversity, voicing concern about indigenous rights over protected natural areas and biodiversity

Commentary: Bolivian newspaper's editorial praises agreement between government and agroindustrial companies that opens up possibility of authorizing transgenic products of corn, sugarcane, cotton and soybeans, even though country's constitution prohibits these products, except growing of soybeans resistant to glyphosate

News: Mexican radio outlet reports on Querétaro environmentalists' demonstration against the General Biodiversity Law, activist Pamela Dieron called for an adequate consultation regarding the law, claimed it is a regression of previous laws

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports Seeds of Life Foundation warns tortilla makers are adding yellow corn to tortillas to lower production costs, adding most yellow corn is imported, transgenic; calls on authorities to execute greater control

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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Stakeholder database

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Events calendar

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Date: Thursday, January 4, 2018 9:05:21 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Mexican maize producers were questioning a reported rise in tortilla prices, linking the issue to illegal use of imported GM maize. In Europe, British Environment Secretary Michael Gove said that the country could begin selling gene-edited animals following its withdrawal from the European Union.

- Mexican media outlets reported on a controversial claim that tortilla prices were due to rise. In an interview with *Crónica*, the president of the National Confederation of Agricultural Producers of Maize of Mexico (CNPAMM) said that local maize prices had decreased and claimed that the only reason rising energy prices would cause a tortilla price increase would be because tortilla manufacturers were illegally using imported, transgenic corn. A representative of the National Alliance of Industrialists of the Masa y la Tortilla said that the rumors of a price increase were unfounded. **See more**
- Gove told attendees at the Oxford Farming Conference that the U.K.'s withdrawal from the European Union could open the country's use of farming technologies such as gene-edited animals. While noting that the move could raise political questions, Gove highlighted the opportunity for Britain to take its own stance on gene-editing technologies. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Gwyn Morga, retired founding CEO of EnCana Corp writes for Canada's Financial Post, criticizes anti-GMO activists' fear-mongering tactics in 2017, notes there has been little opposition to developments in medical genetic engineering

Video: Texas television outlet features Texas Ag Industries Association President Donnie Dippel, who speaks in defense of GMOs, he doesn't understand opposition to conventional ag, points to environmental benefits of GMOs such as reduced pesticide use

News: Grist runs brief item warning reports that chocolate could go extinct because of climate change misleading, noting NOAA believes cacao trees may adapt to new climate conditions, also pointing out researchers using CRISPR gene-editing technology to modify cacao plants to survive in changing climate

News release: University of California's Innovative Genomics Institute announces its scientists, supported in part by candy giant Mars Inc., working to engineer cacao trees resistant to disease; researchers using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing system to alter DNA of cacao plants to become more resistant to viral and fungal diseases

News: Successful Farming reports on Recombinetics' use of gene editing technology to develop male piglets born naturally castrated, ensuring swine health and maintaining meat quality by eliminating need for surgical or medicinal castration

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: Ugandan Parliament proposes changes to National Environmental Bill to include regulation of GMOs and hazardous chemicals

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science reports political, farm leaders in western Uganda's Kasese District seek priority release of GMO seeds when GE cassava and maize crops deregulated, approved for commercial use; area facing shortages of staple cassava because of damage inflicted by viruses

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports ag biotech stakeholders offering assurances problems with GE cotton in Burkina Faso won't be repeated with GMO crops elsewhere in Africa; Monsanto scientists blame lack of breeding program in Burkina Faso to improve upon cultivar

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports National Seed Association of India blames Monsanto for pink bollworm resistance to Bollgard-II GM cotton, threatens to stop selling BG-II seeds if Monsanto won't vouch for efficacy of second gene, wants Monsanto to take responsibility, compensate farmers

Commentary: Writing for Asia-Pacific current affairs magazine, U.S. university professor says Japanese consumer groups fear TPP will weaken country's GMO laws, give agribusiness too much control of food supply

News: Brazilian ag news site amplifies USDA GAIN report on China's plans for biotech crop adoption, China's State Council is reviewing regulations for Ag Ministry to conduct safety tests on biotech products

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Telegraph reports U.K. Environment Secretary Michael Gove says in speech to Oxford Farming Conference that GM animals could be sold in Britain after Brexit, suggests gene editing could be used to create "more valuable livestock," admits use of technology would raise "political and moral questions"

Commentary: Agra Europe runs op-ed analyzing speech by U.K. Environment Secretary Michael Gove at Oxford Farming Conference, where he mentioned gene editing; writer cites opportunities to forge ahead on CRISPR technology for crops and livestock, warns U.K. must decide on gene editing post-Brexit

News release: Testbiotech says EU Ombudswoman charge of EU Commission with maladministration should not distract from need for better prevention of GMO contamination; NGO to invite EU Commission, EFSA to research presentation on GE risk assessment in 2018

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports Seeds of Life Foundation warns tortilla makers are adding yellow corn to tortillas to lower production costs, adding most yellow corn is imported, transgenic; calls on authorities to execute greater control

News: Mexico's La Prensa reports tortilla, corn groups assure tortilla price will not rise; university research urges economy secretary to punish industrialists importing, selling yellow transgenic corn that make tortillas unfit for human consumption

News: Mexican news outlet reports Mexico maize producers group says tortilla price increase is

unjustified given drop in Mexican white corn cost, noting more expensive, imported GM yellow corn is not allowed in tortilla

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: India's Food & Beverage News reports on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) recent approval of golden rice as safe for human consumption, in response to application by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

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 ongoing commentary on the Ugandan president's decision not to sign the country's biosafety law. In India, a seed trade group threatened to stop producing stacked trait Bt cotton seeds.

- Uganda's *Daily Monitor* reported that a coalition of activists under the umbrella group Environment and Food Sovereignty announced support for President Yoweri Museveni's decision not to sign the national biotechnology and biosafety bill. In a news conference, the activists claimed that scientists were overstating the climate benefits of new GM crops. Meanwhile, Robert Sekitoleko, chairperson of the committee on science and technology, said that MPs were focused on educating the president on clauses that address his concerns about the bill. **See more**
- In a letter to the agriculture ministry, representatives of the National Seed Association of India threatened to stop producing Bt cotton seeds unless the government met their demands to break the companies' license agreement with trait manufacturers. The groups criticized state efforts to hold them liable for paying compensation to farmers who suffered losses to pink bollworm. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico reports that the federal GMO labeling guidance has been sent to the Office of Management and Budget for review

News: Missouri-based ag news radio service interviews geneticist Alison VanEenennaam of University of California about her involvement in "Food Evolution" documentary; she says many Americans don't understand what genetic modification is, let alone its benefits, criticizes fear about eating GM food

Commentary: PG Economics agricultural economist Graham Brookes writes for Genetic Literacy Project, amplifies his recent paper in GM Crops and Food demonstrating increased carbon emissions if farmers stopped planting glyphosate-tolerant crops

Letter to the editor: Minneapolis Star Tribune roundup of letters includes one from member of Land Stewardship Project responding to op-ed that called for science-based decisions about food production systems; writer argues use of GM crops in United States has led to higher use of herbicides

Commentary: Drovers Cattle Network op-ed discusses "raw water" movement gaining popularity on West Coast, compares it to other movements that deny science, including anti-GMO activism

News: The Washington Post reports consumers are becoming savvier and seeing through food labels like "organic" or "natural", adding expansion of "GMO-free" into big brands making processed food "has diluted the appeal and reduced trust in organic claims"

Commentary: Wealth Daily's Monica Savaglia examines potential for gene editing to improve nutrition in our food, highlights differences between products of gene editing and GMOs, believes consumers are

right to be wary of GMOs due to unknown health risks

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports on activist consortium Environment and Food Sovereignty's support of President Museveni's rejection of biosafety bill, National Association of Professional Environmentalists' Frank Muramuzi claimed it would cause indigenous species to disappear

News: The Ugandan reports MPs plan to educate President Museveni on clauses of GMO bill that he opposes, according to science and technology committee chairperson Robert Sekitoleko, who noted all questions raised have solutions within the law

Commentary: Writer for Kenya's Daily Nation reviews life and career of the late Calestous Juma, reflects on 2009 lecture he gave in his native Kenya, notes his advocacy for GMO foods as way to increase nation's food security, points out GMOs remain banned and controversial in Kenya, although crop trials underway

Commentary: Kenya's The East African runs op-ed by two members of One Acre Fund calling on African governments to fund smart agriculture to prevent famine, improve crop yields in face of climate change, such as by using drought-resistant seeds

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's GAIN Report on Burkina Faso's 2012 Biosafety Law includes information on biotechnology approval process in African nation for GE products developed domestically or by third country

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on letter from National Seeds Association of India (NSAI) stating that its members may stop making Bt cotton seeds if their demands are not met, arguing gov't should do away with certain fees payable to Mahyco Monsanto Biotech Limited

News: China Global Television Network reports Burkina Faso's experiment with GM cotton disappointing, country tried strain of Bt cotton produced by Monsanto to resist bollworms, but resulting crop had short fibers so value of country's cotton exports fell; Burkina Faso phased out all GM cotton in 2016

News: Outlook India's roundup of nation's environmental issues in 2017 includes discussion of large-scale protests by anti-GM crop activists after India's GM crop regulator recommended commercial use of GM mustard in submission to environment ministry

News: Deccan Chronicle reports on Andhra Pradesh State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (APSSRDI) of Hindupur's development of four hybrid transgenic silkworm varieties resistant to Bombixmori Nueclio Polyno Virus (BmNPV)

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification (COGEM) posts notice it concluded import of three GM oilseed rape lines poses negligible risk to Dutch environment, but finds submitted Post Market Environmental Monitoring plan insufficient, needs improvement before market authorization

Event: Confederation Paysanne, La Via Campesina promote Conference on Food Sovereignty to be held Jan. 26-27 in Barcelona, Spain, to discuss issues of GM agriculture, how to keep ban on GMOs in organic farming, state of scientific and legislative debate on GM food

Report: USDA GAIN Report states European Union and its member states, under pressure from anti-biotech activists, "have developed a complex policy framework that has slowed down and limited research, development, and commercial production of biotech products"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports presidential candidate asserts he doesn't fear assassination, says planting of transgenic maize would not be allowed under his administration, denies that his potential secretary of agriculture has relationship with Monsanto

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food Navigator reports Food Standards Australia New Zealand rules products containing traces of GM golden rice should be able to be sold in those two countries, but doesn't permit golden rice to be grown in Australia and New Zealand

Campaign: Australian woman launches Change.org petition to Organic Industry Standards and Certification Council opposing submission by Australian Organics to change National Standards to remove reasonable wait period for farms converting to Certified Organic after growing GM produce

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 9 05:14 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 monitoring focused heavily on two new research developments. Response also continues to the Ugandan president's refusal to sign a biosafety bill.

- University of California-Berkeley researchers, working with candy maker Mars, are using CRISPR technology to adapt cacao plants to resist climate warming, arguing that if no action is taken, the plant could be extinct in 40 years otherwise. The development received international attention from media outlets hailing the technique as the savior of chocolate. **See more**
- Working in collaboration with University of Queensland and University of Sydney, the U.K.'s John Innes Centre announced the development of a speed-breeding platform that could allow scientists to improve plant genetics faster. While the researchers behind the project promoted it as a supplement to other modern technologies, anti-GMO stakeholders may position the platform as an alternative to agricultural biotechnology. **See more**
- Uganda President Yoweri Museveni's decision to not sign a biosafety bill received noticeable response from scientists and activists. Among responses from the science community, Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development Executive Director Arthur Makara published an op-ed in *New Vision* calling the decision the biggest disappointment of the year and highlighting the flaws in the president's letter defending his refusal to sign. Health of Mother Earth Foundation activist Nnimmo Bassey praised the decision in an op-ed in *Business Day*. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: The World Food Prize posts blog by 2016 Laureate Jan Low arguing for importance of biofortification of staple food crops to fight micronutrient malnutrition in hunger-stricken countries, suggesting that taxing poor-quality foods and drinks could help finance such efforts

Event: Ohio radio station previews keynote speech to be given by Stacy Malkan, co-founder of U.S. Right to Know, on Feb. 18 at Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's annual conference; Malkan claims "fake news" being generated about benefits of organic food, charges big ag companies engineering own facts about GM foods

News: Newsweek reports Australian and U.K. researchers who published findings in Nature Plants claim "speed breeding" method could grow crops, allow scientists to improve plant genetics faster, speeding up process of breeding crops more resilient to disease, pests by using grow lights optimized for photosynthesis

News: U.S. mainstream media outlets report climate change could trigger extinction of cacao plant, needed to make chocolate, but candy giant Mars and genetic engineers teaming to address problem by using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to engineer cacao plants that can survive different climates

Commentary: University of Georgia crop and soil science professor writes guest post on colleague Robert Shewfelt's blog, explaining how non-GMO labels are a marketing ploy, pointing to established

safety and environmental benefits of GM crops

News: New York Times publishes memorial for Kenyan-born Harvard professor Calestous Juma, highlights his work to improve African acceptance of new technologies, and his 1989 book "The Gene Hunters," which helped pave the way for Convention on Biological Diversity

Commentary: Mother Jones' Amy Thomson examines commercial release of Arctic apples, which she has sampled, highlights claims by Friends of the Earth's Dana Perls about potential health effects, and Perls' argument that non-GM, non-browning apples exist

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Agriculturist Isaac Ongu writes for Uganda's Daily Monitor, promotes development of late blight-resistant potato by National Agricultural Research Organisation (Naro) and International Potato Centre, criticizes delay in biosafety bill's passage

Commentary: Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development executive director Arthur M. Makara writes in Uganda's New Vision, responding to President Yoweri Museveni's letter on the biosafety law, points out flaws in his argument, calls for trust in scientists

Commentary: New Telegraph journalist says medical experts claim more Nigerians will die from kidney disease unless government stops GMO consumption; neurosurgeon claims GMOs contain glyphosate and dychlorophus, which disrupt kidney function

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's recommendation that Ghanaians eat locally produced products to promote economic growth and reduce risk of carcinogenic diseases, which they claim are caused by GMOs

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on scientists' disappointment over President Yoweri Museveni's refusal to sign biosafety bill, National Agricultural Research Organisation Director General Ambrose Agona noted his position captures myths of the bill's opponents

News: Ugandan news site reports producers want to use GM crops as part of solution to pest, disease plagues; critics argue large corporations want to control food production through GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: India news site reports another farmer dies in Tamil Nadu after spraying pesticides on cotton crop, notes many experts consider Bt cotton a failure as it has been unable to keep its original purpose of staving off pests

Commentary: Arvind Kumar of India's Sunday Guardian claims Monsanto is responsible for new Punjab policy contributing to smoke in Delhi, claims Monsanto seeks to discourage rice production to promote its GM crops, links GM corn to bee deaths

Commentary: Masipag's Alfie Pulumbarit writes for Philippine Daily Inquirer, compares golden rice to Dengvaxia vaccine, claims potential risks of feeding trials on children are unknown, argues golden rice could be a Trojan horse allowing entry of large companies

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: U.K.'s John Innes Centre announces development of speed-breeding platform in collaboration with University of Queensland and University of Sydney, highlights potential combination with other technologies such as CRISPR

Commentary: Italian activist site publishes article by Vandana Shiva, who criticizes Monsanto's plans to expand use of digital agriculture in the future, claims agroecology is the only way to sustainably feed the world

News: French anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM's Eric Meunier in fourth part of series questions whether EU's GM crop approvals are legal; claims scientific assessments are inconsistent, noting French experts reject applications as incomplete while EU experts accept them

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Greenpeace Mexico's Angelica Simon writes year in review article for Sin Embargo, lists revocation of Monsanto's GM soybean permits as good news, highlights goals and challenges for 2018

News: Uruguayan news site reports political parties issue statement expressing concern over GM crop approvals, say they want assurances the crops and associated pesticides will not impact health and environment

News: Agencia EFE reports Mexican Senate approved changes to biodiversity law; indigenous and environmental groups criticize the law, claiming it ignores indigenous groups' rights and enables large companies to patent biological resources

News: Bolivia's Pagina Siete reports on Deputy Minister for Consumer Rights, Guillermo Mendoza's announcement of new GMO labeling mandate, going into effect Jan. 1, companies will have two years to add labels to products

News: Bolivian news site reports President Evo Hernandez asks for proposal from Santa Cruz producers on using GM crops to increase production; notes without biotech crops farmers abandoning corn planting because they're losing money

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Research team led by University of Queensland's Amy Watson and John Innes Centre's Sreya Ghosh write letter in Nature Plants, presenting "speed breeding" method, noting potential integration with other modern technologies like gene editing

Commentary: New Zealand news site columnist lists Italy's Federico Infascelli's faked research on GMOs among biggest frauds in science

News: New Zealand radio broadcaster asks how agriculture should respond to potential threat of synthetic food undercutting prices, notes Gates Foundation, others support synthetic foods

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 9 05:18 PM

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Recent global biotechnology developments included news that Uganda's president decided not to sign the country's biosafety bill into law. A peasant leader in Mexico claimed that transgenic soy was still being planted despite a court moratorium, and Bangladesh approved a new GM rice variety.

- Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, decided not to sign the country's national biotechnology and biosafety bill. Local media outlets reported that, in a letter to Parliament, Museveni urged legislators to incorporate strict coexistence measures to protect local crop varieties from GM pollen and to investigate the impact on farmers' ability to save seeds. **See more**
- Mexico's *La Jornada Maya* highlighted claims by local peasant leader José Dolores López Barrios that the illegal sowing of transgenic soy in the Yucatan Peninsula had resulted in bee die-offs and had negatively affected honey producers in the region. Barrios added that beekeepers had not been compensated for their losses. **See more**
- Bangladesh's *The Daily Star* reported that the government had approved five new varieties of rice, including a hybrid rice with increased zinc tolerance and a transgenic rice developed to be more easily reaped by mechanical harvesters. **See more**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Your next snapshot will be sent Tuesday, Jan. 2, when the normal distribution schedule resumes. Please check the monitoring portal for the latest updates.

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North America

Commentary: Purdue University president Mitch Daniels writes for Washington Post, argues rich countries' avoidance of GMOs is immoral as well as anti-science, emphasizing need for the technology to help feed growing populations in developing nations

Commentary: Nathaniel Scharping writes for Discover Magazine on threats to banana industry posed by Panama disease TR4, notes use of GE or CRISPR is a possible solution, highlights Queensland University of Technology's development of resistant strains

Interview: Food Tank interviews Purdue University's Jayson Lusk about his work on controversial food questions, Lusk notes policy changes on GMO labeling could result in manufacturers switching to more expensive, non-GM ingredients, raising food prices

Commentary: Frances Townsend of Foreign Policy argues U.S. needs to strengthen research and development in agriculture to prevent China from taking the competitive lead, believes regulators shouldn't block proposed mergers

News: Wisconsin State Farmer reports on recent Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) summit, highlights comments by UC Davis animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam, who spoke about regulatory hurdles hindering biotech livestock improvements

Commentary: Maria Bowman, Catherine Greene and Fred Kuchler of USDA's Economic Research Service write blog post on recent report on impact of Federal organic and nutrition labels and private food company labels, noting consumer confusion on non-GMO label

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda Grapevine reports Museveni refuses to sign food "corrupting" GMO bill citing concerns over mixing with indigenous crops, labeling and patents

News: Uganda Soft Power news channel amplifies reports President Museveni seeking biosafety bill revisions; adds quotes of concern of GMO monopoly over organic, need for precautionary measures and concerns about EU trade impact

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports on President Museveni's decision not to sign Biosafety Bill into law, sending it back to Parliament to examine patent rights of indigenous farmers and sanctions for mixing GMOs with indigenous crops and animals

Commentary: Biotechnology and Stewardship for Sustainable Agriculture in West Africa (BSSA) director Walter Sandow Alhassan writes for Ghana's Joy, criticizing Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's article warning citizens against eating GMOs during Christmas

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Philippines' Business Mirror reports on Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association, Inc. (PBGEA) executive director Stephen Antig's opposition to GM banana field trials in Mindanao, arguing it could negatively impact produce marketing

News: Zac Sarian, Manila Bulletin's Agriculture Editor, writes for his personal blog, reporting on Filipino banana expert Agustin Molina Jr.'s opposition to field trials of Panama disease-resistnat GM bananas in the Philippines, highlighting concern about exports

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on release approval for the country's first biotech rice variety, designed with strong stems to make reaping with mechanical harvesters easier, another zinc-rich rice variety was also approved

Review: CAB Reviews paper by Indian scientists examines research on impact of transgenic Bt cotton on soil health, with focus on persistence of cry toxin, if any, and impact on soil ecosystem functioning, finds no substantial evidence of adverse effects

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports researchers at Russia's St. Petersburg National University announced development of GM carrots that protect against viruses that cause the flu, stating that feeding them to cattle could improve their immune systems

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch publication Eos reports on development of Panama disease-resistant GM banana by Dutch and Australian researchers, the scientists will next look for additional resistance genes, and examine whether yield and taste have remained unchanged

Commentary: Spanish NGO Observatorio OMG responds to decision by Australia and New Zealand to allow human consumption of golden rice, cites number of reasons environmental groups are opposed to its introduction, including lack of post-marketing epidemiological studies

Commentary: GenOk's Thomas Bohn writes short communication for Food and Chemical Toxicology,

criticizing European Food Safety Authority for ignoring data demonstrating combinatorial effects of Cry-toxins and Roundup in 'stacked' GM plants

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on Independent Agricultural and Peasant Workers' Center leader Jose Dolores Lopez Barrios' claims that continued presence of GM soybeans, in spite of court order, directly causes death of millions of bees and impacts honey exports

Commentary: Adriana Varillas writes editorial comment for Mexico's Radio Formula QR in opposition to biodiversity law, amplifies concerns of ETC Group director Silvia Ribeiro, who claims it will allow companies to patent traditional genetic resources

Commentary: Guillermo Correa of Mexico's Quadratin labels several presidential candidates as deceitful, criticizes Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's proposed appointment of VÃctor Villalobos as Ag Secretary due to his stance on GMOs, which he claims harm peasants

News: Oaxaca's El Imparcial reports local artist Francisco Toledo registered with State Electoral Institute and Civic Participation of Oaxaca (IEEPCO) to contest municipal presidency of Oaxaca de JuÃirez, Toledo is known for work against GMOs and transnational companies

News: Uruguay news source reports NGOs express concern over government's approval of four transgenic events for commercial use, warn about exposing society to effects that may result from massive use of 2,4-D and dicamba, along with wide use of glyphosate

News: Uruguayan ag news outlet reports on Monsanto agronomist Marcos Carrera's statement on ideological debate surrounding GMOs, following Ministries of Public Health and Housing and Territorial Planning and Environment's vote against new GM materials

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Argentina's AgroMeat reports on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) announcement that its comprehensive safety assessment of golden rice found no health or safety issues associated with consumption

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 9:04:08 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 a French journalist had been injured during an anti-GMO protest. Concerns over Bt cotton use in India remained elevated, according to officials in various farming regions. Bolivia's president called for a proposal on how the country could begin cultivating GM crops.

- A journalist with *France Bleu* was reportedly attacked by police firing tear gas during a supermarket protest organized by the Volunteer Reapers. An editorial in that publication said police specifically targeted the journalist and called the action "intolerable." About 15 Volunteer Reapers had joined the protest to criticize the use of GM animal feed. **See more**
- As cotton harvests in India continue, the use of Bt cotton remains controversial. Maharashtras governor urged researchers to develop new varieties that can withstand pink bollworm predation, while in Telangana farmers called for Monsanto to pay compensation over the illegal proliferation of an herbicide tolerant cotton in that region. Telangana officials announced that they would be strictly policing cotton seed sales next year. **See more**
- Bolivian president Evo Morales asked local business leaders to offer a proposal on the country's cultivation of GM crops, adding that he'd like to review the analysis by March. Specifically, Morales noted the interest in cultivation and eventual export of soybean, corn, cotton and cane. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Dietician writes for Parents magazine on "Science Moms" documentary, summarizes food myths and facts on GMOs, organic pesticide use, and celebrity food fads

News release: Elsevier promotes Journal of Dairy Science literature review concluding all stakeholders must be involved in evaluating scientific, ethical impacts of genome editing, genetic modification to avoid miscommunication

Commentary: Washington Examiner runs op-ed by chairman emeritus of free market think tank analyzing proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger, warning it could stifle competition in seeds and crop protection, asserting merged company will be so dominant that competition in sectors will be impossible

News: Bloomberg BNA reports on Monsanto's opposition to planned restrictions on 2018 dicamba use in several states, Monsanto's Scott Partridge argued the states' "focus is misplaced," and that there is no evidence to support cutoff dates or maximum temperatures

More North America items

Africa

News: Angola's state-run news agency reports Mozambique launches second phase of testing new varieties of GM maize designed to resist drought and insect attacks; work carried out under auspices of

Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger discusses impact of decision by Burkina Faso cotton traders to phase out cultivation of GM cotton, says national study shows introduction of GM cultivars in country led to 22 percent increase in yield over conventional cultivars

More Africa items

Asia

News: Deccan Herald reports lawmakers warn Indian government against introduction of more GM crops because of unreliable regulatory system; critics point out 14 laws and regulations under five different ministries and six regulatory bodies to supervise entry and growth of GM crops

News: Outlook India reports governor of Maharashtra urges researchers to develop GM seeds that can withstand pest attacks, citing concern over farmers deaths in Yavatmal allegedly due to pesticide poisoning; governor spoke at Shri Vasantrao Naik Agriculture Biotechnology College

Commentary: The Hindu Business Line runs op-ed by global commodities market specialist analyzing problem of bollworms attacking cotton crops in India's Maharashtra region; says attacks on seed technologies unjustified and brings roles of regulators, policymakers into question

News: The New Indian Express reports Telangana ag officials will check sales of illegal Bollgard 3 GM cotton seeds during next harvest season across the state, ag scientist GV Ramanjaneyulu called on gov't to immediately track firms producing and selling these seeds

News: Philippines' SunStar reports Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) opposes proposed GM banana field trials in Mindanao, executive director Stephen Antig noted they welcome the development, but don't know if their market will buy it

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: France Bleu's Florence Beaudet writes editorial condemning tear gas assault of a France Bleu journalist, while he was covering a Volunteer Reaper anti-GMO protest at Intermarche d'Aubenas

News: France's L'Obs reports on assault of a France Bleu journalist with tear gas while he was covering a Volunteer Reaper demonstration against "hidden GMOs" in food at a supermarket in Aubenas, Ardeche

Commentary: Keine-Gentechnik lists wishes for 2018, such as German government amending Genetic Engineering Act regulating GM plants in close cooperation with organic and environmental groups, European Court of Justice ruling GE organisms should be considered GMOs

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO inf'OGM amplifies survey by Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (Copagen) of farmers who grew Bt cotton in Burkina Faso from 2013 to 2016, says results show promises of GMO promoters not realized

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports president Evo Morales asks for proposal by end of March to allow use of GM soybeans, corn, cotton and sugarcane; general manager of Bolivian Foreign Trade Institute says with GM crops Bolivia can become agro-exporting country

News: Bolivian news site reports president Evo Morales agrees to review proposal by end of March for four GM crops; government also allows exports of soy, meat sorghum and sugar

News: Uruguayan news source reports Rural Association of Uruguay praises President Vazquez's

"sensitivity and diligence" in approving new GM events to be used in commercial agriculture; Biosafety Cabinet authorized four new events in soybeans and corn, three in soybeans for evaluation, several others for research

News: Argentina's El Tiempo reports on Faculty of Agronomy of Universidad de Buenos Aires (FAUBA) researchers' assessment that coming "third revolution of the Pampas" will involve coexistence of ag models using transgenic crops and agroecology

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Food Standards Australia New Zealand calls for submissions on application to permit food from a GM cotton line, which has been modified to be resistant to piercing and sucking insects; FSANZ CEO says no public health or safety concerns identified in assessment

More Oceania items

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Global Crop Protection Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Continued coverage and analysis of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's draft risk assessment for glyphosate and related issues, dicamba drift and chlorpyrifos use in California dominated crop protection monitoring today.

- The U.S. EPA's draft human health and ecological risk assessments for glyphosate for public comment continue to draw interest from the media and environmental groups, including *Politico Pro Europe*, *Food & Environment Reporting Network* and legal news outlets anticipating future opposition from environmental groups. Food & Water Watch and Sustainable Pulse published responses highlighting several reasons why the agency's conclusion should be different. **See more** Roundup-related litigation discussion remains steady. Joanna Szabo of Top Class Actions announced a new lawsuit against Monsanto alleging Roundup resulted in a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Baum law firm announced the filing of 50 new San Francisco Roundup cancer lawsuits against Monsanto. **See more** In the EU, we continue to see coverage of farmer concerns over the potential loss of glyphosate. In addition, *Politico Pro* reported that a German lawmaker in the People's Party, Peter Jahr, said Parliament's call for an independent authority must go "hand in hand" with increased resources. Jahr also asserted that the European Food Safety Authority's opinions based on science do not always fit with the public or political opinion and that often a political decision is given preference. The Austrian province of Carinthia has reportedly informed the EU Commission that it plans to ban glyphosate for three more years. Lastly, European Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis wrote a piece in *Ouest France* calling for a broader debate over pesticides following the glyphosate controversy, noting the movement toward transparency. **See more**

- Several U.S. ag news sites reported on dicamba drift-related developments, including a West Central Distribution-sponsored webinar highlighting efforts by BASF and EPA to help farmers avoid off-target drift, a *Bloomberg BNA* piece on Monsanto's opposition to planned restrictions on 2018 dicamba use in several states and an Iowa State University agronomy professor's historical perspective on dicamba. Late yesterday, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture announced it has approved Engenia, Xtendimax with Vapor Grip technology and Fexapan herbicides for use in the state for the 2018 growing season. **See more**

- Sen. Tom Udall reportedly said he would lift his hold on the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, which would impose fees on pesticide registrants to generate funding for the Office of Pesticide Programs, if the EPA responds to his concerns about chlorpyrifos. In addition, *Western Farm Press* reported on the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's interim mitigation measures to reduce chlorpyrifos exposure while it reviews comments and makes its final risk assessment. A California news site highlighted comments by NGOs contending that classifying chlorpyrifos under Proposition 65 shows that state is ready to take more direction concerning regulation and call for a statewide ban. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent crop protection items, **click here**

Africa

Commentary: Silke Bollmohr of EcoTrac Consulting writes for Kenya's Daily Nation, argues it is time to question use of herbicides, points to controversy surrounding health effects of glyphosate, recommends mulch and cover crops to improve soil health

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: The Thailand Life warns readers about unsafe levels of pesticide residues in Thai produce, amplifying Thailand Pesticide Alert Network's assessment that nearly 64 percent of Thai produce exceeds its MRL, provides tips for finding pesticide-free food

News: Outlook India reports governor of Maharashtra urges researchers to develop GM seeds that can withstand pest attacks, citing concern over deaths of several farmers in Yavatmal allegedly due to pesticide poisoning; governor spoke at launch of new building at Shri Vasantrao Naik Agriculture Biotechnology College

Commentary: Former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh writes for The Hans India, warns that humans are equally vulnerable as wildlife to negative impacts of industry, highlights recent farmer poisonings in Yavatmal due to pesticide exposure

News: The Telegraph India reports govt audit finds India's food safety regulator has approved food products without adequate testing after analysis reveals 99 percent of food samples were not analyzed for pesticides, notes Calcutta lab claimed 60 percent of samples met standards when they had not been analyzed for pesticides since 2015

More Asia items

Europe

News: Ouest France reports stores are trying to sell their stocks of glyphosate at year anniversary of ban on sale to individuals, with some stores opting to break the law by advertising the products; Water & Rivers of Brittany representative expresses surprise at the advertisements appearing again after April complaint filed

Announcement: Public Health France launches Coset-MSA national study on occupational health and risks in agriculture, says diverse occupational exposures in ag include phytosanitary products

Commentary: Member of European Parliament from France's National Front party announces she voted against authorization of GM oilseed rape that confers tolerance to glyphosate and glufosinate ammonium, says glyphosate classified as probable carcinogen and glufosinate ammonium is reprotoxic

Commentary: Epoch Times France's INSPIRED segment praises El Salvador's success in becoming independent from products of multinational companies like Monsanto, no longer relying on GM seeds and Roundup, notes the country's production increased by 40 percent

Commentary: UFC-Que Choisir, other NGOs demand action plans for glyphosate, EDCs, cancellation of recent authorization of bee-killer pesticides as nation's food congress nears completion

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no notable developments in today's monitoring of Latin America. Click below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

North America

Commentary: Sonoma County, Calif. NGO amplifies Le Monde Monsanto Papers series to warn local pesticide spraying is cause high local rates of childhood cancer; endorses organics bill

Announcement: EPA requests ad hoc expert nominations for Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and

Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel on physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling to address pharmacokinetic differences between and within species on six pesticidal active ingredients

News: Central Oregon TV news source KTVZ reports Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division extends public comment period to Jan. 31 on rules to protect farmworkers and their families from pesticide drift

Commentary: Washington Examiner runs op-ed by chairman emeritus of free market think tank analyzing proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger, warning it could stifle competition in seeds and crop protection, asserting merged company will be so dominant that competition in sectors will be impossible, especially for start-ups

Commentary: Steemit blogger warns readers about use of glyphosate in pre-harvest treatments on several crops, points to studies linking it to endocrine disruption, recommends buying organic

Commentary: Ben Hewitt of Institute on the Environment's Ensia magazine examines use of glyphosate for pre-harvest desiccation, explains benefits for farmers and contribution to dietary exposure, highlights claims by Charles Benbrook and Stephanie Seneff

Commentary: PLOS Biology Birnbaum collection piece co-authored by Environmental Defense Fund staff claims gaps in U.S. food regulation put health at risk, says FDA does not effectively assess, manage safety of chemicals including EDCs

More North America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Northern Daily Leader reports New South Wales Environment Protection Authority is reminding landholders, contractors to use herbicides responsibly in summer to avoid environmental, economic damages from drift, notes agency will keep eye out for non-compliance

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 remembrances of Harvard scholar Calestous Juma, who passed away last week. In Uruguay, the country's environment minister criticized recent GM crop approvals.

- Remembrances for Harvard scholar Calestous Juma continued today, with commentary in U.S. and African news sites highlighting Juma's staunch support for African agricultural innovation. **See more**
- Uruguay's National Biosafety Monitor approved 14 new GM crops, including four new GM maize and soy varieties. The news prompted criticism from Environment Minister Eneida de León, who said the science on crop risks remained unclear. **See more**
- In Mexico, Greenpeace criticized the potential agriculture secretary nominee of presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Media outlets reported that the group claimed that Victor Villabolos, who had been named as a possible choice for the position, was a promoter of transgenic crops despite the crops' clear environmental and economic risks. **See more**
- In association with the Global Landscapes Forum occurring in Bonn, the International Institute for Environment and Development announces launch of SENTINEL project, a UK and Africa coordinated effort to preserve environmental systems while meeting Africa's food needs. The four-year project aims to reorient "ill-informed" agricultural policies in Africa that fail to account for climate change and socioeconomic needs of farmers. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts Global Leadership Fellow's tribute to the late Harvard professor Calestous Juma, citing his call for Africa to embrace GE crops, noting his positive voice in debate about GMOs in writer's native Uganda, praising Juma's books, including "The New Harvest," "Innovation and Its Enemies"

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science memorializes Harvard professor Calestous Juma, who died Dec. 15 after career of advocating for innovation in agriculture in his native Kenya, notes he was criticized by anti-GMO activists for his support of genetically modified crops, wrote about historical opposition to innovation

Commentary: Antonio Regalado of MIT Technology Review examines recent developments in gene editing, highlighting Calyxt's soybeans with higher fatty acid content, examines debate over how products of gene editing should be regulated

Commentary: MIT Technology Review's David Rotman writes letter from the editor, examines great potential of CRISPR and Talen to enable greater number of scientists to develop new plant varieties, notes anti-GMO activism keeps small scientists away

News: Journal de Montreal reports anti-GMO group asks Canadian Food Inspection Agency to disclose what companies bought 4.5 tons of AquaBounty's GE salmon in 2017, claims four of five orders were for catering, may have been used for meals in restaurants, hospitals, schools

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's GAIN Report gives cotton and products update for West Africa, finds 2017-2018 cotton production forecast falls due to drought and high pest pressures in Burkina Faso, notes farmers sprayed more pesticides to control fall armyworm than when they planted Bt cotton

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Slow Food says Uganda biosafety bill threatens food sovereignty, calls on small farmers to reject GMOs, embrace local biodiversity to solve country's pest and malnutrition issues

News: Uganda's New Vision reports banana farmers will be able to grow GM bananas with improved pro-vitamin A nutrients, starting in 2021; local breed enhanced with gene from Australia, modified banana has orange flesh

Commentary: Writing in Real Clear Science, Kevin Folta says his visit to see Uganda GM banana field trials shows how Western anti-GMO rhetoric can derail humanitarian progress, notes Uganda passage of biosafety bill offers hope to deliver important technologies to local farmers

News: Nigerian news agency reports National Biosafety Management Agency grants Int'l Institute of Tropical Agriculture field trial permit for GM cassava

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Hindu Business Line reports Telangana farmers ask government to force Monsanto to pay compensation for damages from spread of illegal Bt3 cotton; Monsanto denies charges

News release: Chinese ag biotech trait and corn seed provider Origin Agritech announces progress update on growth platforms focused on development, commercialization of superior corn seed products, high-value biotech traits, including biotech traits for insect resistance and herbicide tolerance

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: International Institute for Environment and Development researcher previews Bonn Global Landscapes Forum, says IIED launching UK-funded SENTINEL project to address challenge of producing enough food for Africa's growing population while preserving ecosystems

News: French news outlet reports authorities halt Volunteer Reapers demonstration handing out flyers, labeling GM food products in Aubenas supermarket; activists aimed to raise awareness in advance of holidays of GMOs in foods

News release: French farmers' union Coordination Rurale announces it signed open letter addressing December Ministerial Conference of WTO in Argentina, joining 75 groups and individuals calling for changes in international agricultural trade, arguing rules have destructive effects on peasant farmers

Commentary: Maurizio Bongioanni of Slow Food Italy reacts to recent article in La Stampa on use of GM feed in livestock sector, makes several counter-arguments about GMOs, claims they don't decrease pesticide use and that long term health impacts are unknown

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguay's Montevideo Portal reports on opposition to National Biosafety Cabinet's recent approval of 14 new GMOs, highlights concerns about impacts of associated agrochemicals, and REDES - Friends of the Earth Uruguay's book on 20 years of GM use

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Departmental Board of Montevideo's approval of GMO labeling decree, following similar regulations in Paysandu, Maldonado and Lavalleja, highlights challenges in creating a national GMO labeling law

News release: Greenpeace Mexico denounces possible appointment of Victor Villalobos as Ag Secretary in Morena's cabinet, due to his favorable stance on GMOs, claims GMOs damage biodiversity and lead to genetic contamination of native seeds

News: La Jornada Maya reports on Change.org petition in which over 50 organizations call on Quintana Roo gov't to reduce pollution in Bacalar Lagoon and declare a Transgenic Free Zone, highlighting concerns about negative environmental impacts

Announcement: Brazil Senate news service reports GMO labeling was among 58 proposals approved by ag-agrarian reform commission in 2017; notes bill awaits analysis of Committee on Social Affairs

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

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring featured a new India parliamentary recommendation on GMOs, coverage of Giorgio Fidenato's acquittal for GM crop cultivation and a *Politico* preview of 2018 U.S. biotech regulation.

- In India, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests tabled a report today recommending that no GM crop, including GM mustard, be introduced in the country unless it's biosafety and socio-economic desirability is evaluated by an independent and transparent process. The news was reported by *United News of India*. **See more**
- An Italian news outlet reported the Court of Udine acquitted farmer Giorgio Fidenato for growing GM corn in Friuli in 2014. According to the report, Fidenato noted plans to seek compensation for damages and to plant GM corn in 2018. **See more**
- *Politico Pro* reported the U.S. Department of Agriculture is planning to tackle 27 final rules in fiscal 2018 to ease regulatory requirements, including one governing regulations of GMO labeling, which the agency plans to tackle first with a final action delivered in July (**see more**). Meanwhile, a *Politico Pro* feature suggested biotech proponents may increase lobbying in 2018 for the Trump administration to update the rules governing biotech crop approvals. According to the report, supporters see the current administration as the best shot for passing changes to the framework, adding that if action doesn't begin soon, policymakers will likely run out of time to pass meaningful legislation. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Senior fellow of American Council on Science and Health writing on council's website demands retraction from science website for publishing biased article without revealing writer's ties to anti-biotechnology organization, U.S. Right to Know

News: Politico Pro's morning ag news roundup reports on USDA's plans to carry out 27 rules in 2018 to reduce regulatory requirements, USDA noted final action on rule for how food manufacturers can label products with GE ingredients will come in July

News: Politico Pro reports on ag biotech sector's hope that Trump's USDA will revamp antiquated rules that hinder innovation, highlights CropLife International study finding gov't approval of a GE plant takes 11 years and $136 million, and developments in gene editing

Commentary: CEO of Independent Natural Food Retailers Association writing in Whole Foods Magazine predicts demand for organic food, non-GMO verified products will continue to grow, placing more demands on growers

Commentary: Alex Berezow of The American Council on Science and Health supports proposal to scrap term "GMO"; notes biological attributes should be basis for regulation not method of creation

More North America items

Africa

Study: Study in Journal of Sustainable Development examines effect of utilization of biotech products on farm produce output in Owerri Agricultural Zone of Imo State, finding use of biotech can increase productivity and total farm output

Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science reports Burkina Faso abandoning GM cotton amid buyer complaints cotton length shorter; notes farmers forced to return to non-GMO cotton, heavy pesticide use

More Africa items

Asia

News: Pakistan's Dawn reports farmers want biotech, but approvals are slow, Monsanto's Lance Wang is impressed by farmers' willingness to embrace new technologies, but lamented slow rate of mechanization in the ag sector

News: Indian news agency reports parliamentary committee on science recommends government evaluate bio-safety, socio-economic impact of genetically modified crops before allowing importation

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Eric Meunier begins series on latest applications for commercial authorizations of GM plants in the EU since Oct. 2016, highlights 14 requests for new products, eight applications for renewals, and one withdrawal

News: Serbian news outlet reports on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Rasim Ljajic's statement that citizens have nothing to fear if GMO regulations are amended to enable WTO membership

News: Italian news outlet reports on Court of Udine's acquittal of farmer Giorgio Fidenato for growing GM corn in Friuli in 2014, following EU Court of Justice ruling, Fidenato noted plans to seek compensation for damages, and to plant GM corn in 2018

News: Politico EU reports EU Commission issued formal objections to Bayer's proposed deal with Monsanto, according to two people briefed on the case, Bayer may need to make more significant concessions, Bayer's Utz Klages wouldn't comment on rumors

News: Italy's La Stampa reports on controversy surrounding GMOs, as Italy prohibits cultivation but allows imports, highlights opposition by Slow Food and Coldiretti, and farmer Giorgio Fidenato's legal battle over his decision to grow GM corn

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Inter Press Service reports on uncertainty in results of NAFTA renegotiations for Mexico, U.S. Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy analyst Steve Suppan believes the new agreement will involve entry of GMOs and synbio products

News: Mexico's Sinembargo reports on corruption study of nine states with upcoming gubernatorial races by Impunidad Cero y Transparencia Mexicana, highlights situation in Yucatan, where indigenous communities fought against Monsanto's GM soy

Commentary: Cida de Oliveira of Brasil De Fato claims companies like Monsanto are investing in new technologies such as CRISPR due to "failure" of transgenics, claims GM crops failed to reduce pesticide

use, resulting in negative environmental impacts

News: Argentina's La Nacion reports on National Commission for the Defense of Competition's (CNDC) investigation of level of concentration that would result in Argentina from Bayer-Monsanto deal

News: Huffington Post Mexico reports Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador shifts to right wing in third attempt to reach the presidency, Greenpeace criticized his proposed Ag Secretary, Victor Villalobos, over promotion of so-called "trangenic FTA" with U.S. and Canada

Campaign: Union of Civil Society Organizations of Bacalar and over 50 civil organizations and institutions sign collective petition to Quintana Roo Governor Carlos Joaquin Gonzalez and six other gov't officials, calling for declaration of a GE-free zone

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand newspaper reports biotechnology company urging legal changes to encourage gene-editing technology after release of two scientific papers on possible use of technology to control pests, prevent disease

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports agricultural lobbying groups oppose government investigation into compensation for organic farmers whose crops contaminated by GM material; lobbying groups claim inquiry unnecessary, intended to quash GM farming

Commentary: Australian science writer says empathy, seeking common ground with public more important than explaining science behind contentious issues such as genetically modified foods

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports Grain Producers South Australia (GPSA) commissions market analysts Mercado to investigate whether South Australia's GM crop ban actually results in price advantage for SA farmers

News: Australian ag news site reports Syngenta CEO Erik Fyrwald laments politicizing debate over use of pesticides, GM technology, warns of unscientific arguments by environmental NGOs potentially leading to removal of beneficial ag products, methods, calls claims of organic ag practices capable of feeding the world "a myth"

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 18, 2017
Date: Monday, December 18, 2017 4:02:49 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Happy holidays and Happy New Year!

The Favorable Outcomes newsletter is taking a holiday break, with the next edition planned for Tuesday, Jan. 2. But before we go, there are still some more stories from 2017 that are worth sharing.

In the holiday spirit, we've included a Christmas wish from Ruth Kava of the American Council on Science and Health for Golden Rice and other important biotech crops to be made available to the people who need them. And Amanda Zaluckyj of The Farmer's Daughter USA asks for Amazon shoppers to avoid making donations to support the Non-GMO Project's "fear and lies" and instead give to a charity that is doing good.

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: Neurological Health Foundation

The Neurological Health Foundation (NHF), founded in 2010, promotes a "beyond organic" approach for pregnant women to avoid having children with autism and other neurological disorders.

Stories Worth Sharing

Josh Bloom: Leading endocrine disruptor scientist "so wrong" with claim that fireworks are linked to autism

Omri Ben-Shahar: Consumers drawn to non-GMO labels because they're bombarded by misleading claims about GMO risks

Amanda Zaluckyj: Use Amazon Smile to support charities that are actually doing good, not to spread Non-GMO Project's "fear and lies"

Andrew Portertield: "Big Ag" narrative about corporatization ignores that 97 percent of U.S. farms are family-owned

Ruth Kava: Golden rice - and golden potatoes - should be made widely available to fight vitamin A deficiency

Cameron English and Kevin Folta: Banning dicamba technology would be excessive, but use does need further refinement

Bloomberg: Investors hesitant to pursue GMO technology because public opinion lags behind scientific findings on safety

Robert Mwanga: Crops that are biofortified and resistant to insects and drought are key to producing more high-quality food

Justin Cremer: South African farmer "firm believer" in biotech after

NHF's founders promote treatments and cures for autism that include homeopathic chelation therapy and doctor-prescribed organic diets. NHF is in the news recently urging women and children adopt a GMO-free, organic diet and avoid endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the release of its annual Healthy Child Guide and the launch of the Pregnancy Kitchen initiative - branded with the USDA Organic seal - offering meal services via partners including Whole Foods Market.

Click HERE to learn more about the foundation

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

improved yields changed her life

USDA, University of Maryland scientists find Varroa mite-linked virus in two-thirds of sampled U.S. beehives

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences director behind series of academic papers questioning food and chemical safety

European Commission commiffee gives preliminary approval to definition of endocrine disruptors in pesticides

Vote on proposed European neonic ban delayed until next year, possibly after European Food Safety Authority finishes assessment

U.S. EPA releases risk assessment documents for neonics ahead of planned public comment period

U.S. Congressional committee threatens to pull funding if International Agency for Research on Cancer refuses to be more transparent

Calendar highlights

December 21	January 3-7	January 5-10
Volunteer Reapers trial in France	Society for Integrated & Comparative Biology 2018 Meeting	American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

Bonus Eventus community
Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

For more information, contact:
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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 15-17, 2017
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2017 9 04:26 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 monitoring included an announcement the Gates Foundation will designate $300 million to develop crops that will thrive despite climate change. Anti-biotech NGO African Center for Biodiversity announced it will release a report in 2018 recommending harmonized seed regulations in Africa. *Agence France-Presse* continued reporting on the wheat test plot that was vandalized in France.

- *Reuters* reported the Gates Foundation pledged $300 million to help smallholder farmers in Asia and Africa adapt to climate change by developing drought-, heat-, disease- and pest-resistant crops. Christophe Noisette of the activist group Inf'OGM called it a "false solution." **See more**
- ACB announced it will recommend harmonized seed laws for southern and eastern African nations, which it says will facilitate trade across borders. The recommendation also would ensure that smallholder farmers can save seeds, which ACB says would free farmers from being locked into buying seeds from large agribusinesses or larger farms. **See more**
- French seed company Limagrain announced there were no GM crops planted in the fields vandalized by the anti-biotech group Volunteer Reapers in Verneuil l'Etang, about 50 kilometers south of Paris. Activists scattered several varieties of wheat seed in the field. A company official told *Agence France-Presse* one to two years of research on conventional grain were lost as a result. **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: Food Navigator reports on Tyson and Unilever's departure from Grocery Manufacturers Association, Radobank analyst Nick Fereday believes recent exodus represents a "breakdown in consensus" on issues like GMO labeling and added sugar

News: CBC reports environmental groups FOIA scientists' emails, post them on Internet regarding PR firm recruiting scientists for online forum on gene drives; scientists maintain discussions weren't nefarious and environmental groups also organized for the forum

News: Canadian agricultural news site reports gene drive has great potential for disease prevention, eradicating exotic species, but also could drive extinction for species involved and presents unknown issues

More North America items

Africa

News: Quartz Africa writes memorial article on Harvard Professor Calestous Juma, highlights his most recent book, "Innovation and its Enemies," in which he examined resistance to innovative technologies such as GMOs

News: Malawi's Maravi Post reports on African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) Legal and Policy Program officer Akile Sunday's advice to scientists on importance of compliance with biosafety laws to lessen legal fights encountered during trials

News: Reuters reports Gates Foundation pledges to fund research on heat-, drought-resistant crops, unveils $300-million plan to aid smallholders in Asia, Africa

News: South Africa's Daily Maverick reports on African Centre for Biodiversity's (ACB) call for revisions of legislation on plant breeders' rights, ACB's Mariam Mayet warned about potential criminalization of smallholders collecting and saving seeds

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Science journalist writes in Hindustan Times that India needs conversation on gene editing, but notes it failed to allay GMO fears and science institutions are not proactive with policies

News: India's The Hitavada reports on Maharashtra Government's call on Central Government to conduct investigation into marketing of illegal genes in Bt cotton, announced by Ag Minister Pandurang Fundkar

News: Argentina's Chacra reports on Agribusiness Minister Luis Miguel Etchevehere's meeting with Chinese Vice Minister of Agriculture Qu Dongyu, Etchevehere requested early approval of Argentine GM products so producers can use them without trade disruptions

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on development of late-blight resistant GM potato variety by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota and Simplot, potentially saving farmers Tk 100 crore annually in fungicide costs

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson amplifies recent studies demonstrating GM contamination of native Mexican maize varieties, highlights negative environmental implications, and authors' recommendations on how it can be avoided

News release: Navdanya announces Vandana Shiva sends letter to Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change demanding criminal investigation against Monsanto for genetic contamination, following discovery of illegal Bt cotton

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports French seed company Limagrain says there were no GM crops in field destroyed by Volunteer Reapers; company says it lost one to two years of research on conventional wheat

News: Deutsche Welle says signing Mercosur-EU FTA not possible at politically charged Argentine meeting; says biggest issues remain Latin America's use of GMOs, lack of traceability, and ethanol

Commentary: Ural Federal University and E1.RU launch Scientists vs Myths project, highlights expert Alexander Yermoshin's dismissal of several myths about GMOs, such as that they cause cancer and allergies, describes the breeding process

News: Agence France-Presse reports 70 members of Volunteer Reapers collective entered a Limagrain wheat variety testing platform in Seine-et-Marne, and sowed about 20 hectares of peasant wheat seeds in opposition to "hidden GMOs"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports Ministry of Agribusiness approves GM safflower to make chymosin, an animal enzyme needed to make cheese

News: Mexican news site reports Greenpeace criticizes Mexican presidential candidate's choice for agriculture secretary, says Victor Villalobos supported FTA that promoted GMOs, encouraged GM maize in Oaxaca

News: La Jornada reports that biologist, author Elena Alvarez Buylla focuses on GM corn, says genes are interrelated rather than isolated, so we should not apply genetic engineering to organisms

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The West Australian reports farm lobbies concerned regarding WA Parliament investigation into compensation for organic farms contaminated by GMOs; Pastoralists and Graziers representatives say there's no need for law to cover "very rare" occurrences

News: Australia's Farm Online reports on anti-GMO groups' criticism of Office of the Gene Technology's (OGTR) proposals for products of gene editing, highlighting statements from Gene Ethics and Friends of the Earth

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

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 14, 2017
Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017 9 04:00 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 monitoring featured a Volunteer Reaper anti-GMO demonstration, coverage of an Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa media engagement meeting and a *Bloomberg* feature on GMO innovation obstacles.

- The French anti-GMO group Inf'OGM announced Volunteer Reapers entered a wheat seed variety testing platform run by French seed company Limagrain and proceeded to sow wheat from peasant and farmer seeds. The demonstration was held to denounce the opacity of the seed firm in its lobbying for deregulation of new breeding techniques. **See more**
- The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is leading an interactive meeting for media and member organizations in Uganda, which aims to engage the media on issues of food sovereignty. Speaking with a local news outlet, AFSA Programmes Coordinator Bridget Mugambe said emerging policies in Africa support industrial agriculture models versus smallholder farmers, citing the New Alliance for Food Security as an example. The meeting runs through tomorrow (Dec. 15). **See more**
- *Bloomberg* published a feature examining the roadblocks for GM crop developments, quoting the University of California-Berkeley's Peggy Lemaux, who believes anti-GMO activists are keeping investors away. Cornell Alliance for Science director Sarah Davidson Evanega is also featured in the piece, noting how delays in biotech adoption negatively impacts developing nations. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Study: University of Illinois researchers document host plant resistance to western corn rootworm in maize varieties

Commentary: Joan Conrow analyzes shift in Hawaii's GMO and hybrid seed industry, highlighting DowDuPont's plans to close operations on Molokai and expand them on Kauai, believes use of indoor operations may pre-empt activist claims about pesticide drift

Campaign: Center for Food Safety email blitz is part of end-of-year fundraising, notes it is suing EPA to force it to withdraw approval for Monsanto's Roundup-Ready crops

Commentary: "Farmer's Daughter USA" Amanda Zaluckyj criticizes Non-GMO Project's participation in Amazon's Smile Program, notes that while they are technically a non-profit, they spread false propaganda about safe GM technology

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association urges readers to send in money to its Millions Against Monsanto campaign, says their efforts helped reduce acreage cultivated with GM crops, resulted in Campbell's and Nestle leaving GMA over food labeling efforts, and sued Monsanto over labeling Roundup as "safe for humans"

Campaign: Green America's GMO Inside urges supporters not to buy Starbucks gift cards due to

company use of milk from cows given GM feed and antibiotics, recommends gift cards for other brands like Chipotle and Patagonia, and for Green America membership

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa's (AFSA) interactive meeting for media and member organizations in Entebbe, Uganda, with goal of engaging the media on issues of food sovereignty, according to AFSA's Bridget Mugambe

News: Nigeria's Pulse News Agency reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's call on super stores to immediately formalize GM products with the agency, in order to avoid business disruptions

News: Egyptian news outlet reports on National Research Center's development of GM wheat seeds and a new microorganism compound to boost yields in spite of arid climate, lack of official GMO regulation keeps such developments stuck in the lab

Commentary: Michael J. Ssali of Uganda's Daily Monitor argues GM technology is much needed in farming, highlighting health, environmental and economic benefits, and successful applications in several countries across the globe

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Slow Food notes Masipag resists GM crops, Golden Rice in Philippines' Visayan Islands, by saving native rice seed, develops new varieties through selective breeding, protests government efforts to promote Golden Rice

News: The Hans India reports farm unions in Andhra Pradesh demand stern action against companies involved in spread of illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds, Vissa Kirankumar of Rythu Swarajya Vedika pointed to risks posed by glyphosate and resistant weeds

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: Technical University of Denmark's (DTU) National Food Institute seeks researcher for science-based advice on GMO and chemical risk assessment, primary task will be implementing GMO health risk assessments

Report: ACT Alliance EU publishes position paper on food security and climate change, advocates alternatives to climate-smart agriculture, promoting agroecology, argues use of GM seeds is unsuitable for poor farmers, as it necessitates use of chemical pesticides

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette examines recent action by Volunteer Reapers against Limagrain, sowing peasant and farmer wheat seeds on 15 hectares of test plots to oppose deregulation of new GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Argentinian NGO Movimiento Patagonia Libre announces it recently held an event entitled "Gritos de la Mapu" in Piedra Buena, participants consolidated a firm position in opposition to "extractivist activities" such as transgenics

News: Argentina's La Izquierda Diario reports several organizations gathered in protest of WTO summit,

police arrested several protesters

News: Mexico's Proceso reports on lawyer Jorge Mendiburu's assessment that revocation of permits for Monsanto's GM soybeans is not final, due to legal challenge, he believes this is in spite of a 'serious' crime attempted against the country's biosecurity

Campaign: CLOC-Via Campesina publishes declaration of Food Sovereignty Forum Territories of Peace for the Dignified Life Summit of the Peoples in protest of WTO summit, speaking out against violence brought by ag companies against native seeds, and introduction of dangerous technologies

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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To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 13, 2017
Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 9:01:54 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 monitoring featured a hearing on a Food Sovereignty Ghana GMO opposition suit, the discovery of GMOs in birdfeed in Switzerland and the launch of a new U.S. government comment period.

- The Human Rights Court in Accra, Ghana, was scheduled to hear the case brought by a Food Sovereignty Ghana-led NGO coalition against the National Biosafety Authority seeking declarations affirming GM rice and cowpea commercialization have met international and domestic risk assessment and GMO management laws. In anticipation of the hearing, Ghana Parliamentary Agriculture Committee member Yaw Frimpong Addo published an op-ed accusing Food Sovereignty Ghana of attempting to block the introduction of GMOs (**see more**). A piece by Joseph Opoku Gakpo of the Cornell Alliance for Science also amplified criticism of the NGO (**see more**).
- The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment announced inspectors identified birdseed contaminated with GM oilseed rape, prompting officials to contact importers to take measures to reduce impurities. The agency added that birdseed from trade will be regularly monitored in the future. The announcement was amplified by Swiss anti-GMO NGO Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei. **See more**
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration solicited comments on how it should collect input for its consultation for foods derived from new plant varieties. The agency will accept comments through Feb. 12. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Campaign: SynBio Watch letter from 10 anti-GMO NGOs to CBD adds allegations of undisclosed conflicts of interest to gene drive FOIA initiative seeking to exclude Gates Foundation supported academics from providing input to regulation of NBTs

Commentary: Science news piece by Cameron English and Kevin Folta highlights dicamba debate, lesser-known facts ignored by media; explains crop damage linked to dicamba drift predates Monsanto's herbicide-resistant crops by almost 50 years; notes DuPont and BASF more responsive to farmer complaints than Monsanto

Announcement: FDA announces open comment period through Feb. 12 regarding proposed guidance on collection provisions for FDA's consultation procedures for foods derived from new plant varieties

News: Daily Caller reports on reasons behind Sonny Perdue's concerns about allowing states to limit what items can be purchased with food stamps, highlights his statement about some states possibly trying to restrict GM foods

News: Mother Jones reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren warns of ag business consolidations monopolizing global seed, pesticide markets, urges Trump administration to block Bayer-Monsanto merger

Campaign: Just Label It asks supporters to send emails urging their members of Congress to support Homegrown Organic Act of 2017, says bill would help producers switch to organic farming, points out

organic crops grown on less than 1 percent of U.S. farmland

News: MIT Technology Review reports on California Cherry Board funded research at University of California, Riverside to develop gene drive technology with potential to control invasive Drosophila suzukii fruit fly, highlights debate over ethical implications and regulation

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Food Sovereignty Ghana's efforts toward court ruling against GM crops, highlights criticism of the NGO by Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association, parliamentarians and scientists

News: Ghana's Joy reports on Parliamentary Ag Committee member Yaw Frimpong Addo's criticism of Food Sovereignty Ghana's attempts to block introduction of GMOs, emphasizing need for ag innovations, arguing those who want GM crops should have access

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on professor HM Desarda's criticism of industrial agriculture and GM crops, ahead of Global Climate Change Conference organized by ag universities of Maharashtra, claiming this type of agriculture destroys biodiversity

News: Reuters reports India's cotton output is likely to fall short of record high predicted by industry analysts, due to damage caused by pink bollworms, which have become resistant to Monsanto's Bt cotton technology in certain regions

News: India's Research Matters reports on Indian Institute of Technology researchers' development of GM cowpea variety resistant to Mungbean Yellow Mosaic India Virus (MYMIV) using RNAi, scientists are planning field trials

News: India news site reports Maharashtra govt still trying to determine cause of pesticide-related deaths among farmers; state bans sale of five pesticides and registers case against Gharda Chemicals; ag official blames unauthorized dealers, while Gharda blames Chinese sprays; probe finds standard practices not followed by local officials

News: Bangladeshi news source reports government to introduce GM potato, called "3-R-gene potato," resistant to fungal late-blight disease; project will infuse Diamant potato variety with three resistant genes to fight late blight; supporters say project will increase potato production, growers can spend less on pesticides

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch broadcaster reports Drenthe province national leader in soy cultivation, notes government wants Dutch farmers to grow non-GM soy instead of only importing GM soy; director of Dutch soy processor Agrifirm says customers increasingly asking for non-GM soy

News release: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment announces inspectors find birdseed contaminated with GM oilseed rape, notes birdseed regulated as feed, often retains germination, can be spread in environment; GM oilseed rape plants found growing near two bird feeders

News: EurActiv reports EU and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledge over 500 million euros for ag research and innovation over next three years, possibly implying use of GMOs, which Bill Gates has supported for addressing climate change in Africa

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on plenary entitled "Youth against Free Trade", within the framework of Week of Global Action against the WTO, a member of Paraguayan group Namoseje Monsanto explained the conflict with big companies centers around land

Commentary: Ramiro Thomas of Argentina's La Izquierda Diario amplifies ETC Group study that found peasant agriculture feeds 70 percent of the world, highlights reasons why industrial ag model only feeds 30 percent, points to negative environmental impacts

News: Cuba's Bohemia reports on recent biotech event at Varadero resort, where prominent scientists in the field spoke, including Nobel Laureate Richard Roberts, who spoke about benefits of GMOs, highlights his campaign against Greenpeace

News: Latin American Herald Tribune reports on Argentine President Mauricio Macri's speech at opening of WTO conference in Buenos Aires, he emphasized importance of public-private dialogue, highlights prominent companies represented, including Monsanto

Commentary: Chile's National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women (ANAMURI), posting on sister organization CLOC-Via Campesina, issues statement of solidarity supporting struggles of Brazil's peasant movements, including MST, as they engage in hunger strikes

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Charlotte Krinke and Eric Meunier examine Australia's draft regulations for new GM breeding techniques, highlighting proposal to regulate products of oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis as GMOs, and ongoing mutagenesis debate in France

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!
Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 3:06:24 PM

Welcome!

Dear Caitrin,

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

You now have access to a series of tools to stay abreast on key food and agriculture issues. These include a community networking site, an issues intelligence monitoring portal and a stakeholder wiki.

If you haven't done so already, you'll need to create an account. Once your registration is confirmed, you'll be ready to access the tools below.

COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE NOW

Bonus Eventus Network Tools

Stakeholder Research

Issues Intel Monitoring

Community Forums

Calendar

Introduction

Bonus Eventus is a private social networking and communications platform for stakeholders who desire an informed, collegial and science-based public dialogue and understanding about key food- and agriculture-related issues.

The tools were developed by v-Fluence and the White House Writers Group with the support of academic, commercial, government and NGO stakeholders interested in meaningful dialogue on important food and agriculture issues.

For additional information, click here.

Stakeholder Research

Bonus Eventus, in cooperation with the nonprofit Academics Review, provides a private stakeholder research wiki with profiles on more than 1,000 individuals, organizations and coalitions seeking to influence public attitudes on food and agriculture issues.

We encourage your contributions to keep these community-edited profiles up to date with the highest quality and most current information.

Members may share individual articles from the wiki with the public, but note that in doing so, you take responsibility for the accuracy and quality of that information.

STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH WIKI

Issues Intelligence Monitoring Portal

Everyone in the Bonus Eventus Community can view a general news feed on the site's home page, and customized content feeds are available to individuals or groups.

Topic feeds include plant biotechnology, crop protection, pollinator health, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and agriculture-focused water and climate issues.

As a paid service, v-Fluence provides issues intelligence monitoring reports with expert analysis using historical data and trends.

BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

Community Forums/Networking

Bonus Eventus offers members a range of collaboration tools:

General Forum

Any member of Bonus Eventus may start a discussion thread visible to ALL members of the community.

helpful_tips_abstract.jpg

Instructions

Using the Monitoring Portal

Navigating Forums

View/add to the calendar

Editing the Stakeholder Wiki

Have a tip for us?

v-Fluence is continually working to upgrade and develop products to better serve your needs.

If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, please contact us at monitoring@bonuseventus.org.

We'd love to hear from you.

Groups

Existing organizations and informal groups may create private working spaces for collaboration and information sharing.

Training

Training information includes best practice resources for science advocacy, risk communications, news media and social media.

Issues Library

Members may share slides, background documents, images and videos with the community.

Calendar

Bonus Eventus offers a shared calendar where members can let the community know about conferences, presentations and other events.

v-Fluence topic analysts routinely update calendar items. However, any member may submit event information to be posted.

For more information, contact:
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 12, 2017
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 9:04 54 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 monitoring featured India government action against Monsanto over failed Bt crop performance and GMO labeling developments in Brazil and Uruguay.

- India's *CNN-News18* reported that the Maharashtra ag department registered formal complaints against Monsanto and five other seed companies in response to Bt cotton crops' failure to protect against pink bollworm. Officials allege Monsanto deceived farmers and the government. **See more**
- The Brazilian consumer group Proteste voiced opposition to the proposed Brazil GMO labeling initiative. According to a media report covering the group's advocacy, the Committee on Social Affairs will vote on the policy in a meeting tomorrow (Dec. 13). **See more**
- Officials from Uruguay's Montevideo region reinstated a local 2013 GMO labeling law previously placed on hold due to disagreement among various stakeholders on its viability and interpretation. Media reports note the government approved updates to the policy to require labeling if GMOs exceed 1 percent within an individual ingredient of a food product or 1 percent of the entire product. Labeling proponents expressed anger about implementation delays due to ongoing resistance by commercial interests. **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: Natural News advises readers to avoid using non-GM seeds for produce, notes organic produce not GMO, not doused in pesticides, claims organic farming better for environment

Announcement: National Corn Growers Association announces expansion of Take Action program to fight insect resistance; NCGA chairman and farmer Don Duvall says "Now is the time to take action before insects become resistant to Bt technology like weeds have become resistant to herbicides""

Interview: Farm Journal interviews Marianne Smith Edge of A Fresh Look on recent survey that found gap between what moms value in food and their understanding of how GMOs help achieve those values, she notes ag community can help close the gap

Campaign: GMO Free USA uses Facebook page to promote sales of T-shirts emblazoned with slogan "Thank an Organic Farmer," states goal of selling 100 organic cotton T-shirts to help NGO's fund-raising campaign

Commentary: World Food Prize posts piece by 2016 Laureate Robert Mwanga listing innovations in food production likely to have significant impacts in next decade, grouped into those that increase quantity and quality of food and feed, such as biofortified foods, and those that focus on storing and processing food to prevent loss

Commentary: Science magazine's Jon Cohen examines claims that there is a covert coalition seeking to manipulate UN discussions on gene drive regulations, highlights responses from researchers dismissing

accusations from well-organized environmental NGOs

More North America items

Africa

News: The Guardian reports on Uganda's progress in developing improved, disease-resistant bananas following passage of biosafety bill, National Agricultural Research Organisation's Priver Namanya Bwesigye hopes they will be released for public use by 2021

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on domestic scientists' research on biotech solutions to food sufficiency, highlights Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Zaria researcher Muhammad Ishiyaku's work on bt cowpea, and recent success in trials

News: Nigeria's Blueprint reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) call on GMO dealers to follow due process in importing GM seeds and grains, Director General Rufus Ebegba noted NBMA will penalize importers that violate import laws

News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on biotech workshop for Ghanaian members of Parliament, organized by National Biosafety Authority, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's Victor Agyeman noted crucial role of science in economic development

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: International Institute for Sustainable Development reports Japan became 40th country to ratify Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in Context of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, triggering Supplementary Protocol's entry into force on March 5, 2018

News: India's CNN-News18 reports Maharashtra ag department registers formal complaints against Monsanto and five other seed companies, following Bt cotton crops' failure to protect against pink bollworm, to which they should be resistant

News: Armenia News reports on Monsanto's assurance that it does not import GM seeds, and none were found at customs offices, according to Ag Minister Ignati Arakelyan, who also announced establishment of a special working committee to evaluate legislation

News: India's Tribune Trust reports on Punjab Biotechnology Incubator's (PBTI) organization of five-day training workshop on GMO detection for Environment Ministry officials and Bangladesh Environment Department scientists

Commentary: Political analyst Yasmeen Aftab Ali writes for Pakistan Today, criticizes passage of seed bill allowing import and commercialization of GM crops, claims GM crops have had negative economic impacts in India and Burkina Faso, promotes organic ag

News: Pakistan Observer reports on Economic Cooperation Organization Food Security Committee's call on member states to develop sustainable ag development strategies to help achieve food security, emphasizing need for a seed supply project

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news site reports on letter from local writer and historian opposing GMO cultivation and free trade agreement between EU and Canada, saying "consequence would be a total surrender to the multinationals"

Report: EU Parliament ag committee adopts opinion issued by environment, public health, food safety committee recommending EU cultivation of protein crops, argues move will limit imports of GM soy from

countries with looser food-ag standards

Study: Study in Journal of Agribusiness and Rural Development evaluates Lithuanian consumers' attitudes toward GM foods, finds majority have negative views of GMOs, but only a quarter of respondents actively seek out GMO information on product labels

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Guy Kastler warns about transnational seeds companies' efforts to secure industrial property rights, patents and plant variety certificates (VOC) on products of new breeding techniques, by influencing the system to their advantage

News release: Germany's Testbiotech claims EFSA withholding access to data from feeding trials with GE soybeans, warns health risks from consumption of those soybeans and glyphosate used on them being concealed, notes letter from European Commission indicates importation of GE soybeans might be allowed soon

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Alternate Argentinian news site reports on march against WTO summit in Buenos Aires, says one key point for Argentina will be Free Trade Agreement between EU and Mercosur, and implied "mandatory approval of the 'Monsanto Law' and free imports for the benefit of European companies"

News: Brazil news outlet reports local consumer groups denounces country's proposed GM labeling bill in advance of Committee of Social Affairs vote on Dec. 13

Commentary: Venezuelan radio outlet profiles agroecology and food sovereignty movement, highlighting policy goals of various groups, including Venezuela Free of Trangenicos and National Network of Seed Producers

News: Uruguayan news site reports Montevideo will reinstate GM food labeling following suspension in 2015; city's Departmental Board approves requiring labeling if GMOs exceed one percent within an individual ingredient of a food product or one percent of the entire product

News: Mexican news outlet reports on maize fairs for indigenous communities organized by State Commission for Indigenous Peoples (COEPI), to create awareness and resistance to transgenics

News: Argentinian news site reports on march by social and political organizations in city of Parana against proposed changes to national health law; decree by by protesters includes demand for environment free of agrotoxins and transgenics

Announcement: Brazil's School of Magistracy (Emagis) of the Federal Regional Court of the 4th Region announces launch of journal Revista do TRF nº 95, includes judgement prohibiting GM crops within 10 km of federal conservation units in Rio Grande do Sul

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 an Armenian agriculture ministry meeting on the country's GMO policy and continued response to the World Trade Organization summit.

- A biosafety working group within the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture reportedly met today and recommended the country adhere to the precautionary principle when making regulatory decisions on genetically modified crops, prompting media to report the country is moving toward banning the use of GM products. According to reports, working group members made the recommendations based on an argument that the safety of GMOs has yet to be proven. The chair of the group requested members compile a draft bill for review in two weeks. **See more**
- Argentine news outlet *La Izquierda Diario* published two commentaries today responding to the WTO summit. In one of the pieces, Carlos Vicente of Multisectoral NO to the Monsanto Seeds Act warned the summit will force approval of the "Monsanto Law." In a separate piece, one of the publication's columnists praised protests against the summit, arguing the voices of activists are needed to challenge the event positioned to favor multinationals in the wake of WTO's decision to ban NGOs and journalists. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Cattle rancher and agriculture advocate Amanda Radke writes in Beef Magazine about recent USDA survey indicating over half of consumers want foods labeled it if contains DNA, calls it "wakeup call" and says "consumers need a lesson in basic biology, food production and the cycle of life"

Commentary: Civil Eats interview with Food First! promotes claim that capitalism is cause of food insecurity; organic promoting Holt-Gimenez says organic agroecology political change, not expensive inputs needed to transform agriculture

Announcement: U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service posts notice of petition received from seed company seeking determination of nonregulated status of canola genetically engineered to accumulate long chain omega-3 fatty acid, notes public comment period open until Feb. 9

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features discussion with independent agronomist Karen Corrigan on recent controversy surrounding new dicamba crop technology she urges growers to carefully follow label instructions to minimize drift

Commentary: Joan Conrow writing for Genetic Literacy Project highlights organic industry infighting fueled by USDA allowing hydroponic, aquaponic farms to use organic label, notes hypocrisy of NOSB rejecting GE ag practices that eliminate pesticide use, citing some organic farmers lobbying for GE inclusion

Commentary: Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today expects it won't be long before consumers are willing to pay more for GM foods, highlighting several developments of GM products with consumer benefits, emphasizes importance of fighting villainization

Report: USDA's Economic Research Service examines five case studies showing federal gov't role in food labeling, including voluntary non-GMO labeling, finds mandatory federal standards do not automatically lead to improved consumer understanding

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ghana news site posts Alternative Medical Association of Ghana president urging parliamentary ag, health committee chairmen to oppose Plant Breeder's Bill, stresses uncertainty over potential impacts of GMOs on human health, environment

Commentary: South African ag research advocacy group highlights Ugandan professor's keynote address global food security conference citing population growth to express importance of Africa's role in food production, stress need for government policies to allow use of science, technology in agriculture

News: Nigerian news outlet reports 90,000 metric tons of GM maze were smuggled into the country, according to National Biosafety Management Agency Director General Rufus Ebegba, who highlighted NBMA's actions in collaboration with Customs Service

Video: Open Forum On Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa posts video on YouTube stressing importance of biotechnology to food production, highlighting need for African governments to increase spending in support of ag biotech

More Africa items

Asia

News: Armenian news outlet reports on Ministry of Agriculture biosafety working group decision to prohibit use of GM products in Armenia and adhere to precautionary principle, as it argues GMO safety has not been proven

News: Times of India reports Telangana gov't calls on district officials to take stringent action on dealers and manufacturers of fake seeds, insecticides and fertilizers, following reports of unauthorized GM cotton seeds in the state

News: Deccan Chronicle reports on concerns that pink bollworm will destroy 40 percent of Telangana's cotton crop this year, partly due to unseasonal rains and sales of spurious seeds, which failed to provide resistance to the pest

News: The Hindu reports farmers in Sangareddy district of India's Telangana state allege they were sold herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds at experimental stage prior to approval from Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, resulting in huge economic loss

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Nature research journal posts editorial citing U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals to stress importance of plant biology in global food security, stresses need for high-tech ag solutions including creation of more efficient, higher-yielding crops

News: Russian state-sponsored Sputnik Radio amplifies ETC Group (called a "human rights watchdog") FOIA campaign claiming US military investing in "genetic extinction" technologies turning gene-drives into "ethnic weapons;" contrasts with quotes from Vladimir Putin noting responsible development of technology in Russia

Commentary: University of Sheffield's Peter Horton writes opinion piece for journal Food Security, calls for radical change in food production and consumption, supports use of modern technologies such as GM crops and gene editing

Commentary: Scotland news site piece by Leyton R&D consultant highlights five examples of how life sciences are revolutionizing farming, examples of work being done by clients including pesticide trials

News release: Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) announces publication of revised scientific report on new breeding techniques by its technical authorities, taking into account public comments received by Oct. 13, 2017

Commentary: German anti-GMO news site criticizes Federal Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL) report on genome editing, noting it does not show any substantive changes following public comment period, and that its statements on safety contrast those of ENSSER

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes for Mexico's La Jornada, examines emails obtained by ETC Group and Third World Network showing U.S. military and Gates Foundation's investment in gene drives, argues the technology presents an unacceptable threat

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Supreme Court decision blocking GM corn and soy in Yucatan Peninsula, Greenpeace's Maria Colin Olmos called the ruling a victory for society and environment, as 25,000 families depend on honey production

News release: REDES - Friends of the Earth Uruguay announces publication of new book, "20 years of transgenic crops in Uruguay," detailing negative socio-economic and environmental impacts since their adoption, includes proposals for food sovereignty, agroecology

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Friends of the Earth's new publication on social, environmental and economic impacts of GM crops after 20 years, highlights concerns about pesticides, effects on biodiversity, and intellectual property

Commentary: Andres Garces of Argentina's La Izquierda Diario promotes protest against WTO summit in Buenos Aires, led by Socialist Workers' Party (PTS), criticizes WTO for protecting multinationals' profits, warns about so-called Monsanto Law

Commentary: Carlos Vicente of Multisectoral NO to the Monsanto Seeds Act writes for Argentinian news outlet against WTO summit, claims it will force approval of the "Monsanto Law," which he claims will criminalize native seeds and facilitate their appropriation

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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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 11, 2017
Date: Monday, December 11, 2017 4:02:38 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As the world's population continues to grow, what's the best way to ensure there's enough food for everyone?

In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, there are four pieces - from Calestous Juma, Mark Lynas, Michael J. Ssali and Tracy Powell - that examine this question. Juma and Ssali focus on methods for producing more food in Africa (and Uganda, in particular) while Lynas and Powell take a more general approach.

Two other articles - from Cameron English and Stephan Neidenbach - ask why anti-pesticide activists are opposing genetically modified crops that have been shown to reduce pesticide usage. And an editorial from *Nature* criticizes the subject of this week's Stakeholder Spotlight - Edward Hammond - and his associates for unfairly spinning the debate around gene drives.

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: Edward Hammond

A Texas-based contract researcher who has previously worked on behalf of the Third World Network, Greenpeace International and the African Centre for Biosafety, Hammond

Stories Worth Sharing

Cameron English: "Activist interference" main obstacle preventing use of biotechnology that could reduce pesticide usage

Hank Campbell: Science media must demand accountability from "anti-science social authoritarian progressives" like Gillam, Hakim

Calestous Juma: To fight hunger, African countries must leverage new technology and improve farmer training

Julie Kelly: Scaring women with anti-pesticide claims only adds to "humiliating and painful" process of fertility treatments

Mark Lynas: Feeding growing population without increasing farmland requires better crop genetics and modern techniques

Josh Bloom: France considering replacing glyphosate with product that is more expensive, more toxic to marine life

Michael J. Ssali: Uganda's adoption of biotechnology aimed at boosting production, not aiding foreign companies

Tracy C. Miller: GMOs and pesticides have boosted human health by making food more abundant and affordable

recently released emails (obtained via Freedom of Information requests) suggesting regulations on new breeding techniques were being manipulated by the Gates Foundation, Monsanto and the U.S. military.

Learn more about Hammond HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Nature: Gene drive technology deserves ongoing scrutiny, but release of scientists' emails was "unfair attempt" to create polarizing spin

Stephan Neidenbach: Why are Maryland activists opposing GM crops proven to reduce agricultural run-off?

John S. Gless: California chlorpyrifos restrictions that ignore "overwhelming body of scientific evidence" will hurt citrus farmers

Society of Toxicology: Data have "overwhelmingly demonstrated" that GM foods are as safe and nutritional as non-GM foods

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What's Trending?

European Commission committee to consider neonic regulations / European Food Safety Authority draft assessments leaked

European Food Safety Authority, European Chemicals Agency launch consultation on EDC criteria

Bollworm damage reportedly rampant in Indian cotton crops / Activists blame pesticide use for cotton farmers' deaths in Tamil Nadu

Glyphosate opponents seek legal means to annul reauthorization vote

Calendar highlights

December 10-13	December 11-14	December 12-13
World Trade Organization ministerial conference	Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice meeting	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed considers EDC criteria and neonic regulations
December 12-13	**December 12**	**December 13**
EDC-MixRisk meeting	Collaborative on Health and the Environment webinar: "Examining Environmental Contributors to Autism"	EFSA webinar: Guidance on allergenicity assessment of genetically modified plants

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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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 activist commentary on and protests at the World Trade Organization meeting in Argentina. There was continued reporting on investigations into farmer deaths in India.

- NGOs Friends of the Earth and Global Justice Now criticized Argentine President Mauricio Macri for banning their representatives from the WTO meeting in Buenos Aires. Activist Alberto Villareal said the action undermines WTO legitimacy. La Via Campensina announced protesters would gather to denounce the "devastating effects" the WTO has had on peasant agriculture. **See more**
- During a Nagpur, India, seminar called "Bt Cotton, A Boon or Curse to Farmers," panelists concluded that Bt cotton benefited only Monsanto, noting farmers' profits did not increase despite increased yields. They blamed Bt cotton's failure to control pests as a contributor to farmers' deaths from pesticide spraying. Monsanto's P Suresh said farmers in the area failed to follow prescribed Bt cotton cultivation regimes, contributing to pest resistance. He also urged a crackdown on illegal Bt cotton seed sales. *The Hindu* reported the state of Telangana is acting to check illegal seed production and sale. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health laments growing polarization in scientific debates on issues like GMOs and pesticides, highlights activist targeting of Kevin Folta and Maryland-based scientist Michael Miles

Commentary: Alberto Villarreal of Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean writes for Common Dreams, criticizing WTO for banning him and other NGO reps. from its upcoming meeting in Buenos Aires, argues it undermines WTO's legitimacy

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines what is actually meant by "Big Ag," frequently used in anti-GMO activist rhetoric, points to technological advances, notes labor-saving costs of consolidation give people time to argue about it

Commentary: Forbes' Omri Ben-Shahar criticizes major food brands for pushing GMO opposition into the mainstream by marketing products as non-GMO, even when there is no GM counterpart, hopes the label's overuse will cause superstitions to dissolve

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports in effort to stop GM food importation, farmers plan to flood maize market to lower price by up to 50 percent

News: Uganda-based news site reports during food symposium in Rwanda, CGIAR official urges East

African parliamentarians to adopt GMOs to address food security,

News: Reuters publishes investigative report on issues surrounding Monsanto's Bt cotton in Burkina Faso, highlighting Burkina Faso's decision to abandon the technology due to poor fiber quality, and conflicts with Monsanto over royalties and compensation

News release: South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party announces Human Rights Commission conducted its first seminar on GMOs and impact on human rights, IFP's Inkosi Russel Cebekhulu noted it is an important step for addressing risks of GMOs and glyphosate

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on scientists' call on gov't to lift GM crop ban to address fall armyworm, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization's Felista Makina noted adoption of GM maize would have prevented crop destruction

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on seminar organized by state ag department on pink bollworm, Yavatmal farmers claims attack has destroyed 50-to-90 percent of cotton crop this year due to resistance against Bt cotton, want improved technology

News: The Hindu reports government of India's Telangana state keeping vigil on illegal production and sale of unapproved GM cotton variety with herbicide-tolerant trait known as BG-III; federal government forms Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee to inspect spread of herbicide-tolerant cotton variety

News: Reuters reports Competition Commission of India (CCI) fines Monsanto 15 million rupees ($233,000) for delays in filing replies to questions as part of investigation into whether Monsanto abused its dominant position as a GM seed supplier

News: Times of India reports NGO gathers stakeholders to analyse causes of death in Yavatmal, agricultural activist claims Bt cotton increased yields but not profits; Monsanto representative says farmers didn't follow cultivation regimes, leading to increased resistance in pink bollworm, urges stopping illegal sales of Bt cotton

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: GenOk announces its director, Anne Ingeborg Myhr recently appeared on Dagsnytt 18 program with Norwegian Biotechnology Council's Kristin Halvorsen, to discuss proposed amendments to the Biotechnology Act

News: Swissinfo reports on discovery of GM oilseed rape in bird feed sold in Switzerland, raising concerns about potential release into the environment in spite of the country's GMO moratorium through 2021

Commentary: Global Justice Now's Nick Dearden criticizes Argentine President Macri's decision to ban NGOs from WTO meeting, says it is dictatorial move; says WTO protects large corporations

News: Food Navigator reports European Academies' Science Advisory Council wants evidence-based approach to addressing food security

News: Bloomberg News reports Bayer will hear objections from EU antitrust regulator regarding its purchase of Monsanto

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mayan leaders say they must continue fight against Monsanto and GMO cultivation, insist federal government support their right to local control over their environment, autonomy

News: Uruguayan news site reports Departmental Board of Montevideo extends GMO labeling law to include foods made from GMOs or ingredients produced from them

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on upper house standing committee parliamentary inquiry's examination of compensation mechanisms for West Australian farmers whose crops are contaminated by GMOs, following Green Party petition

News release: Western Australian Parliament announces launch of inquiry into mechanisms for compensation for economic loss to farmers caused by contamination by genetically modified material, with submissions to close on Feb. 16, 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 an NGO news conference criticizing GM soy cultivation in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and activist previews of events protesting the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- Peasant farming groups held a news conference today in Mexico calling for a complete ban on GM crops in the Yucatan Peninsula. Leaders claimed that the international agriculture industry violated human rights in promoting GM soy and warned that the crop varieties would undermine peasant livelihoods and pollute indigenous environments. **See more**
- Activists with La Via Campesina previewed coordinated actions protesting the World Trade Organization meeting scheduled for next week. Among other issues, NGOs affiliated with the actions highlighted leaked documents outlining an EU trade deal being negotiated with Mercosur nations. Greenpeace Netherlands, which released the document, accused EU countries of threatening Latin American biodiversity. **See more**
- Controversy over Bt cotton in India continued as activists linked the trait's failure to protect against pink bollworm to farmer poisonings in Tamil Nadu. The groups called for compensation for farmers and educational programs to help farmers identify alternatives. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Stephen Neidenbach writes for Medium, accuses Maryland Pesticide Network of trying to destroy Chesapeake Bay by opposing GMOs shown to decrease pesticide use contributing to run-off, and prompting transition from more to less harmful pesticides

News: Fast Company amplifies Independent Science News claim that emails obtained from University of North Carolina show Gates Foundation paid PR firm to influence UN's moratorium on gene drive technology, which allows for editing of genes in order to cause extinction in an animal species

Commentary: Writing in The Conversation, Calestous Juma says Africa can learn from Green Revolution to address hunger, malnourishment, including increasing food production, nutritional value through technical training for farmers, investing in rural infrastructure, leveraging new technologies

Commentary: Nature editorial emphasizes importance of continued scrutiny of gene-drive technology by scientists, argues recent email release by NGOs is an "unfair attempt to create damaging and polarizing spin," notes it could damage trust in scientists

Commentary: Attorney William A. Ruskin blogs that anti-biotech movement failed to establish "alternative facts" in court, notes judge dismissed case claiming Wesson vegetable oil ads were deceptively labeled "100% natural" because it used GMOs

Interview: Surfline talks to Hawaiian surfer Dustin Barca, subject of new documentary, who ran

unsuccessfully for mayor of Kauai, organized marches there against GMOs, helped get bill passed that required companies to disclose pesticide use and GMO crop plantings, establish buffer zones around schools, hospitals

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news source reports cultivation of Bt cotton rampant in Odisha state despite government restrictions; agricultural scientist says recent study found American bollworm has developed resistance to toxin produced in GM cotton plants, article notes some researchers believe GM cotton hurting environment

Report: Sustainable ag NGOs issue conclusions of probe into Tamil Nadu farmer poisonings, deaths, finding government at fault for failing to restrict hazardous chemicals, also citing "debt trap" perpetuated by Bt cotton; seeks compensation for affected families, better farmer education regarding GM agriculture

News: Indian news outlet reports on activists' call for pesticide ban after five deaths in Perambalur and Ariyalur districts due to alleged exposure, highlights farmersâ€™ increased use of pesticides to fight bollworm attacks on Bt cotton

Commentary: Navdanya's Seed Freedom asserts "Gene Drives Files" show U.S. DARPA spending $100 million on accelerating research into gene drive technology, Gates Foundation paying PR firm to influence UN CBD's discussions on technology as opponents call for international moratorium on technology

News: The Philippine Star recaps 13th National Biotechnology Week celebrating how biotech contributes to food security, health services and a safer environment

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Greenpeace releases EU free trade agreement with Latin American countries, claims EU Commission, European governments fail to be transparent, claims deal is threat to climate change, South American environments

News: Belgian news site reports Greenpeace warns EU-Mercosur free trade agreement threatens environment in Latin American countries, blames lack of transparency of talks

News release: European Seed Association recaps recent Agri-Food Chain Coalition event highlighting importance of innovation in agri-food sector, notes coalition's call for support of plant breeding innovation

Commentary: French anti-biotech NGO, Inf'OGM, says that EU's decision to label products with 1 percent or more of GM ingredients by weight is political decision and not a scientific one, adds that it means GMOs are present but not labeled

News: U.K.'s Verdict reports on release of emails showing U.S. DARPA investing $100 million in gene drive technology in bid to reduce numbers of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, notes UN Convention on Biological Diversity debating whether to halt research on gene drive technology next year

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: NGOs including Via Campesina announce they reject free trade agreements with Europe, saying meetings were secretive, will negatively impact employment, development of countries, will encourage privatization and dismantle the public sector

News: Mexican news site reports Mayan leaders claim GMOs threaten their environment, social, and economic livelihoods and demand Yucatan area be declared GMO-free; complain of human rights violations, discrimination against indigenous people

News: Mexican news site reports Mayans demand entire Yucatan peninsula be declared a GE-free zone, notes pressure from the group got agency to revoke Monsanto's permit to cultivate GM soy in the area; Mayans' complaints include human rights violations, discrimination

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports West Australian farmers may receive compensation if crops are contaminated by GMOs, standing committee on environment and public affairs will conduct a parliamentary inquiry, in response to Foodwatch petition

News: Australia's Weekly Times reports on trials of new GM safflower variety, developed using CSIRO's gene-silencing technology to produce high oleic oil for industrial use, farmer David Jochinke believes consumers won't oppose since it's not intended for food use

Announcement: Australian Department of Health's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator posts invitation to comment on GM perennial ryegrass field trial, will take submissions through Jan. 18, 2018

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 6, 2017
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 9 02:43 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 news that India's Telangana state had called for the destruction of illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton. In related news, media outlets reported that a political leader was detained and then released during protests over failing Bt cotton. European news outlets continued to highlight a Norwegian group's recent policy statement on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- In India, Telangana's agriculture secretary, C. Parthasarathi, issued a letter to district collectors, calling on them to report any illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton and to destroy it. In the statement, Parthasarathi warned that the illegal cotton risked "contaminating" native varieties and that widespread use of glyphosate would destroy biological resources. **See more**
- In related reports, media outlets reported that political leader Yashwant Sinha had been arrested and later released over his participation in protests that linked failing Bt cotton traits to farmer pesticide poisonings. Sinha warned that an outbreak of Bt-resistant pink bollworm was placing significant stress on farmers, and he called for the government to meet demands for compensation and for holding seed companies accountable. **See more**
- European news outlets continued to highlight the Norway Biotechnology Council (Bioteknologirådet) statement on new plant breeding techniques. A U.K. fish industry site highlighted the implications for salmon breeding, while commentary in *Nationen* pointed out the need for public education on the issue. **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: Gizmodo reports on ETC Group claims that DARPA investment in gene drives lacks transparency, but counters that defense agency has been significant voice warning about gene drive risks

Commentary: March Against Monsanto amplifies media reports about alleged attempts by Gates Foundation to manipulate UN decision-making process regarding gene drives, claims GM technology could be used to kill entire species, calls on gene drive opponents to submit comments via online forum

Commentary: Real Clear Science's Cameron English examines ways in which anti-GMO activists inhibit technologies designed to reduce pesticide use, highlighting Kevin Folta's assessment that his disease-resistant strawberries will likely never come to market

Commentary: Natural foods company Garden of Life announces it will become part of Nestle, says deal signals that USDA Organic and Non-GMO Project Verified nutrition, based on real, whole and plant-based foods, will be made available to more people at prices they can afford

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides blog highlights request from 100 NGOs for U.S. government to boost funding of monarch butterfly conservation to $100M; blames glyphosate, Roundup Ready crops and neonics for causing decline

More North America items

Africa

News release: Burkina Faso's National Biosafety Agency (ANB) recaps recent information workshop on biotechnology and biosafety, focusing on challenges of modern biotech and regulatory system for GMOs; presenter outlined risks and benefits of using GMOs

Commentary: Bioscience for Farmers in Africa fellow Michael J Ssali criticizes recent article in Uganda's The Independent for misrepresenting GM technology, argues current local developments are designed specifically to benefit Ugandans, not foreign companies

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports political party leader detained by police while protesting government's "apathy" toward cotton and soybean farmers of Vidarbha region; protesters want police reports filed against bogus Bt cotton companies, compensation for cotton farmers affected by pink bollworm

News: The Indian Express reports senior political party leader decides to continue agitation until government accepts all his demands for cotton farmers to be compensated for losses incurred due to pink bollworm infestation, as well as action against seed companies manufacturing bogus Bt cotton seeds

News: Indian news outlet reports on Telangana ag secretary C Parthasarathi's letter to all district collectors, calling for district-wide reports on herbicide-tolerant cotton growing areas in response to reports of unapproved Monsanto Bt cotton technology

News: Indian news outlet reports Telangana gov't will take "stern" action against sale and supply of Monsanto's herbicide-tolerant cotton seed, BG-III, currently unapproved in India; Ag department has established committees to evaluate cases of unapproved use

News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports federal interior minister says China-Pakistan Economic Corridor opening up horizon of development to world; Lahore Chamber of Commerce official says GM crops have important role to play in lessening environmental impact, improving ag sustainability

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Hans Bardsgard of Norway's Nationen examines Biotechnology Council's proposal for updating GMO regulations, notes genes in foods we eat have been manipulated for 10,000 years, argues the Council has an education job to do

News: U.K. fish industry news site reports on Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board's proposal for new regulations for GMOs, which will be closely followed by Norway's salmon sector, currently investing in CRISPR research

Commentary: Belgium's L'Echo runs lawyer's analysis of EU Court of Justice ruling that Member States can't oppose GMOs authorized at European level, except to prove serious risk to health or environment, substantially reducing "precautionary principle" applied to GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet examines Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) Citizens' Forum declaration voicing concern about Argentine gov't decision to revoke environmental NGO's registrations for WTO meeting

News: University of Costa Rica's news outlet reports on environmental organizations' accusations against gov't for failing to fulfill promises included in the "environmental pact," Jaime Garcia criticized lack of action on mandatory GMO labeling

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports Autonomous University of Chapingo plans early 2018 presentation of public policy proposal to rescue native corn; calling for avoidance of GMOs, researcher Gerardo Noriega claimed GM corn would contaminate 50 native varieties

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM) researcher and Seeds of Life director, Adelita San Vicente's recent claims that discourse of using GMOs to feed the world is wrong, during forum on resisting GM maize in Mexico

Commentary: Argentina magazine runs crop monitoring adviser's description of armyworm developing resistance to Bt maize, notes most seeds are now treated with neonics that are inefficient at controlling the pest

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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To: caitrin.martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Your Bonus Eventus registration details
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:27:37 PM

Hello caitrinmartin,

Thank you for registering!

You may login here: https://community.bonuseventus.org. If you have any questions or issues logging in, please email us at info@bonuseventus.org.

Thanks very much!

The Bonus Eventus Team

From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Welcome!
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:05:45 PM

Welcome!

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

You're now just a click away from a wealth of knowledge on food and agriculture issues. All that's left for you to do is to set up your own personal account and password.

Register Now

You'll soon receive a separate note with more in-depth instructions on how to use the many tools included in the Bonus Eventus community, including research on noteworthy stakeholders and tracking of key media activity and activist campaigns. Some highlights are noted below

You'll also be receiving our weekly Favorable Outcomes newsletter featuring articles worth sharing.

Knowledge is Power

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

A library of background information on key players influencing food and agriculture issues - and who's funding them

ISSUES MONITORING PORTAL

Daily tracking of current events, news coverage and activist activities on food and agriculture issues

NETWORKING

Connect with other experts and influencers seeking favorable outcomes and science-based dialogue. Or find an expert in a particular field.

CALENDAR

See upcoming events of note - or let the network know of an event you're planning or attending.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you!

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 5, 2017
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 9:04:19 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from the U.S. Society of Toxicology outlining the safety of products made using genetic modification. In Europe, the Norwegian Biotechnology Council issued policy recommendations calling for gene-edited products to be regulated under a less restrictive program than current GM crops. The European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) also issued a report calling for Europe to foster innovation in order to meet future food needs.

- The U.S. Society of Toxicology announced that it was releasing a new issue statement on the safety of GM food and feed. The group affirmed previous academic societies' conclusions on the safety of current products. In a forum article associated with the statement, the group noted that GMO labeling mandates have little food safety relevance but can reflect consumer concerns. **See more**
- In a policy report on the "Opportunities and challenges for research on food and nutrition security and agriculture in Europe," the EASAC urged European policy makers to emphasize innovation in addressing future food security. In its report, the group noted that dietary changes would be required. The group also highlighted the potential of gene editing to be a central part of future agriculture. **See more**.
- Norway's biotechnology council (Bioteknologirådet) released an official statement on regulating products of so-called new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The group will accept public comments on the proposal through May and will conduct in-person outreach sessions in early 2018. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: Society of Toxicology announces new issue statement, "Food and Feed Safety of Genetically Engineered Food Crops," to coincide with publication of new forum article in its official journal, "Toxicological Sciences," that reviews 20 years of research finding foods obtained from GE crops safe and nutritious

News: AgWeb Farm Journal's "US Farm Report" highlights Oklahoma State University survey showing 80 percent of consumers want labels on foods that contain DNA, points out farmers and ranchers should keep in mind many consumers don't know basics of food, let alone complex topics such as GMOs

Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service posts notice in Federal Register of petition received from Texas A&M AgriLife Research seeking determination of nonregulated status of cotton genetically engineered for ultra-low gossypol levels in cottonseed; public comment period runs through Feb. 5, 2018

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian newspaper reports CEO of National Biosafety Management Agency urges dealers of GM

seeds and grains to follow due processes, asserts agency will penalize importers who break laws, says NBMA's key responsibility to ensure practice of biotech and use of GMOs safe for human health, environment

News: Nigeria's state-run news agency reports National Biosafety Management Agency says it won't disrupt legitimate activities of seeds and grains dealers, anyone who wants to import or release GM seeds or grains should get permit, forum held to brainstorm on efforts to maximize benefits of GM seeds and crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports government of Telangana state orders destruction of unapproved GE cotton under widespread cultivation; order concerns herbicide-tolerant cotton developed under commercial name of Roundup Ready Flex, which authorities claim to be spreading rapidly, contaminating other cotton hybrids

More Asia items

Europe

News: Norwegian news outlet reports on Biotechnology Council's proposal to soften Gene Technology Act, exempting products of gene editing from most stringent regulations, which will still apply to transgenic products

News release: Norway's Biotechnology Council announces a majority 18 out of 20 members support softening rules on GMOs, so that some GMOs only trigger a reporting obligation rather than a full approval process

Announcement: Norway's Biotechnology Council announces its presentation of proposals for future of GMO regulations, inviting public dialogue and debate, deadline for comment submissions is May 15, 2018, public meetings will be held during Jan.-March, 2018

News: Germany's Frankfurter Rundschau reports Gates Foundation spent $1.6 million to recruit gene drive advocates to influence UN-convened expert group on synthetic biology, prevent moratorium on gene drives called for by 170 groups including Friends of the Earth International, La Via Campesina

News release: European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC) announces publication of report calling for urgent action on food and nutrition security, authors argue embracing advances in genome editing and precision agriculture will be crucial

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Pew Charitable Trusts' Kara Coleman provides analysis of Pew Latin America Fellow Daniel RodrÃguez-Leal's research using CRISPR to fine-tune output of yield genes in tomatoes, highlights potential applications in other crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on U.S. military's interest in local research on gene drives to eradicate predatory rats, Landacre Research's Dan Tompkins noted importance of addressing concerns, as some see conservation use as a backdoor for ag applications

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, December 4, 2017 9:02:05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included anti-biotechnology activists ETC Group and Testbiotech accusing the Gates Foundation of promoting the "risky" technology of gene drives. In Australia, public comments opened on proposed amendments to the country's National Gene Technology Scheme.

- ETC Group and Testbiotech, in preparation for a meeting tomorrow (Dec. 5) of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, released over 1,000 emails that they claim show the Gates Foundation and the U.S. military were attempting to lobby United Nations officials in support of so-called "gene drive" technology. The groups warned that the technology was "error-prone" and could have significant unintended effects. **See more**
- Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announced that comments had opened on the proposed amendments to the country's national gene technology scheme. The proposed changes would exclude some gene-edited crops from regulation as GMOs and would require licenses for any application of so-called "gene drive" technology. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: ETC Group announces over 1,200 released emails reveal U.S. military is the top funder of gene drives, as well as Gates Foundation's $1.6 million lobbying campaign, highlights allegations that PR Firm Emerging Ag seeks to influence UN discussions

Commentary: Jonathan Latham writes for Independent Science News, criticizes Gates Foundation for hiring PR firm Emerging Ag to allegedly manipulate UN decision-making process on gene drives, according to FOIA-obtained emails

Report: Washington University Law Review report examines how federal GMO labeling law will alter public disclosure, argues that the new law is not a death knell for consumer autonomy, and that it will do little to weaken the fight against GMOs

Commentary: Amanda Zaluckyj of "Farmer's Daughter USA" publishes her Santa's Naughty List for 2017, with Cargill at number one for partnering with Non-GMO Project, the list also includes Netflix, Chipotle, Politico and Azure Farms

Commentary: Astrobiologist David Warmflash writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines why Non-GMO Project label offers nothing to consumers, notes Non-GMO Project verification does not guarantee GMO-free status, warns about spread of pseudoscience

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: Burkina Faso's National Biosafety Agency (ANB) announces National Scientific Committee for Biosafety (CSNB) held a statutory session in Ouagadougou from Nov. 23-24, topics included amending draft decree relating to simplified procedure for GMO authorization

Announcement: Burkina Faso's National Biosafety Agency (ANB) announces it recently held an information and awareness workshop on biotech and biosafety on Nov. 27, with goal of increasing public awareness and curbing spread of false information

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line profiles chairman of state ag commission who decries loss of high percentage of cotton crop in two regions to pink bollworm, says farmers in some districts who experimented with Indian non-GM seeds saw their crops escape PBW attack, asserts pest has developed immunity to GM technology

News: Manila Bulletin reports on SL Agritech Corp. (SLAC) CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong's argument that the Philippines should not push for GM crop adoption until Europe and China begin accepting GMOs

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts blog by Filipino corn farmer touting his success with pest-resistant Bt corn, which he says gives him yields 10 times higher than conventional corn, asserting shift to modern ag technology on his island could improve its economy, reduce poverty, improve food availability

News: Filipino news source reports on recent media seminar on food safety organized by PhilRice, IRRI and Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, notes speakers point out widespread planting of GM corn throughout country, while others tout potential for GE golden rice to address nation's problem with vitamin A deficiency

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech warns Gates Foundation lobby campaign is targeting UN Convention on Biodiversity in support of release of GE mosquitoes containing a gene drive, claims gene drive technology is error-prone with unpredictable long-term effects

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette amplifies ETC Group's release of 1,200 documents showing U.S. military funding for research on gene drives, and Gates Foundation's lobbying activities to promote their use, notes Inf'OGM will continue its analysis

Commentary: Eric Meunier of France's Inf'OGM examines High Council for Biotechnology's (HCB) published opinion on regulation of products of new breeding techniques, warns Scientific Committee's report does not discuss risk assessment of NBTs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Cuba's official news agency reports on Biotechnology Havana 2017, running through Dec. 6, with theme of "Agricultural Biotechnology in the 21st Century," focusing on how biotech can contribute to new forms of food production, organized by Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

News: Mexican news outlet reports Antonio Buen Abad Dominguez of College of Agronomists of Mexico A.C. (CIAM) Delegation San Luis Potosi argues firms wouldn't dare to plant GM soy outside of established areas, as it would risk closure of operations

Commentary: Catiana de Medeiros of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) promotes BioNatur Agroecological Seeds Network's celebration of 20 years of resistance in production of agroecological

seeds, summarizing the event

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Fiesta de Maiz celebrated by Raramuris communities in the Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuahua, Technical Consultancy (Contec) has advised the communities to protect their original seeds, the Raramuris are wary of transgenic maize

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Courtney Young of Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance argues it is essential that products of new breeding techniques are regulated as GMOs, highlights three reviews of the technology taking place this summer, encouraging readers to participate

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator launches comment period on proposed amendments in Gene Technology Technical Review; comments due Feb. 21

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 4, 2017
Date: Monday, December 4, 2017 4:45:44 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

After a combative and prolonged debate, glyphosate gained approval last week to remain on the market in Europe. But was it a real victory for farmers? In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, David Zaruk explains why the vote to allow glyphosate usage for five more years - instead of 10 or 15 - should be seen as a "hollow" win.

Other commentary pieces explore the Non-GMO Project's questionable labeling practices and the International Agency for Research on Cancer's refusal to discuss its glyphosate assessment before Congress although it receives millions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer funding. There are also articles on the "Food Evolution" documentary and the "Science Moms" video - plus the latest piece from the moms themselves.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: National Association for Genetic Safety

A Swiss newsletter recently questioned what happened to the purported $25 million Factor GMO study announced by the Russia-based National Association for Genetic Safety (NAGS) and widely promoted by

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: Five-year reauthorization for glyphosate a "hollow victory" because safe chemical deserved longer renewal

David Warmflash: Non-GMO project a "misinformation campaign" with consequences that hurt millions of children

Kavin Senapathy: Laughable Non-GMO Project certified products include kitty lifter, liquor and homeopathic concoctions

Ross Pomeroy: With bee population rising, biggest myth about the "bee apocalypse" is that there actually is one

Richard Zuber: New IARC director must make key reforms to restore agency's credibility following glyphosate assessment

Henry Miller: "Scientific illiteracy," flawed advocacy research spur misguided regulation of GM crops, pesticides blamed for killing bees

Paul Driessen: IARC unwilling to provide accountability, transparency in return for Americans' $48M investment

Science Moms: Misogynist tone in shill accusations against us
–> Bad Science Debunked: "Science Moms" video worth watching

U.S. and European environmental NGOs and organic interest groups.

NAGS claims to be an independent, Moscow-based environmental NGO that sponsored the promised-but-never-delivered report. The NAGS co-founder and executive director was in the news recently, but not for her work as an anti-GMO environmentalist. Elana Sharoykina is now the director of a Putin-linked conservative Russian media outlet apparently tied to promoting politically disruptive news reports on behalf of the Kremlin, leading to questions as to whether NAGS is another Putin-tied propaganda initiative to help destabilize Western institutions.

Learn more about NAGS HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Emil Javier: Organic farming also uses pesticides that can be harmful, should not automatically reject new chemicals

Maria Andrade: Best technology and trained professionals needed to ensure food security

Ryan Tipps: "Food Evolution" documentary shows GMO supporters are armed with data, passion and education

Florida farmers see GE trees as solution to citrus greening

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Commission releases new draft criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals in pesticides

Water Efficient Maize for Africa scientist calls for Kenya to lift GMO ban after successful field trial

Special investigation on India farmer deaths due out after Dec. 11, reportedly will not exonerate pesticide companies

North Dakota, Arkansas move forward with new dicamba rules

Calendar highlights

December 3-6	December 4	December 5-8
3rd International Conference on Global Food Security	Tyrone Hayes lecture at Trinity University	Convention on Biological Diversity group meeting on synthetic biology
December 5	**December 7**	**December 7-8**
Norway Biotechnology Council presentation of policy recommendations for new gene technologies	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services pollinator symposium	U.S. National Toxicology Program board of scientific counselors meeting with glyphosate studies update

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 1-3, 2017
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2017 9:04:42 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an activist blaming deaths of Indian farmers on Bt cotton usage. A Swiss newsletter questioned what happened to the "Factor GMO" study and the millions of dollars donated to fund the GMO research project. NGOs responded to news that Argentina rescinded accreditation for the World Trade Organization's meeting on free trade agreements.

- Activist Bharat Dogra wrote in *The Hindu* that the Maharashtra area where farmers died from what is claimed to be pesticide poisoning has a large concentration of Bt cotton usage. Dogra argued that rather than reduced pesticide use, the area has seen increased spraying and linked the poisoning to the Bt cotton. An article on the Indian news site *Mint* noted a report on the farmers' deaths will be presented to the Maharashtra state legislature during a legislative session starting Dec. 11. According to the *Mint* article, the report "did not exonerate" pesticide manufacturers. **See more**

- A Swiss science industry newsletter noted that three years ago, the Russian NGO National Association for Genetic Safety raised a reported $25 million for a three-year research project on GMO safety. The newsletter reported that although the website still accepts donations, no research is forthcoming and inquiries are not returned. The newsletter also reported Italy's Ramazzini Institute has a similar crowd-sourcing project and its director, Fiorella Belpoggi, also had a leading role in "Factor GMO" until he left the project "under unclear circumstances." **See more**

- The *Financial Times* reported Argentina banned 60 NGOs from a WTO meeting Dec. 10-13 in Buenos Aires on free trade agreements due to fears of protests at the event. Global Justice Now's Nick Dearden said the Argentine government took an authoritarian approach and said a U.S.-U.K. trade agreement would "change food standards." **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Joan Conrow warns EPA grant for outreach project on Kauai supporting anti-GMO activists, targeting companies that grow GMOs and hybrid seeds on island, notes grant recipient wants to work with NGO that sued in effort to stop state land lease to Kauai seed company, contested water use by seed companies

Commentary: Carol Adl of YourNewsWire amplifies story of farmer Jerry Rosman's claims that GM feed made his pigs sterile, highlights his efforts to help other farmers shift to organic, accuses Monsanto of going after farmers

News: Seeker reports on development of golden potato rich in vitamins A and E, Glenn Davis Stone of Washington University is skeptical about its release onto the market, noting biotech companies haven't shown interest in "superfoods" developed by universities

Commentary: The National Law Review runs article from Washington firm discussing Center for Food Safety's withdrawal of lawsuit asking USDA to release study on digital disclosure methods for GMO

labeling, saying it indicates NGO got promise from agency to accept public comments on consumer study

Interview: Cornell Alliance for Science interviews former Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack, he emphasizes need to better communicate sound science, examines opposition to GMOs, highlighting need for increased transparency, points to potential benefits of gene editing

News: The Gainesville Sun reports University of Florida president says university researchers, growers, others will beat citrus greening; researchers, growers say genetic engineering, research are invaluable to citrus industry

Commentary: We Love GMOs and Vaccines' Stephan Niedenbach gives tongue-in-cheek apology regarding FOIA request on his public funding effort to raise money for classroom copy paper, technology; notes list of donors can be found online

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news source reports scientists successfully test GM maize samples resistant to drought, attacks by pests and diseases, including resistance against fall armyworm, but country's 2012 ban on importation and use of GM crops will derail approval of the corn seed to benefit farmers

Commentary: Nigerian news site editorial notes NABDA declared GMOs safe, but says this contradicts WHO statement that general statements about GMO safety is impossible; reporter says there are three health risks associated with GMOs

Announcement: South Africa's Parliamentary Monitoring Group posts summary of briefing by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) on Plant Improvement and Plant Breeders Bills, DAFF noted the bill would allow smallholders to exchange seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports Maharashtra state gov't is accepting complaints from farmers against Bt cotton seed manufacturers, and may levy fines on the companies to help compensate farmers for their losses

News: The Hindu reports lack of regulations regarding unauthorized cotton seed has Indian states in confusion; claims Monsanto's BGIII field tests contaminated other fields intentionally or unintentionally before pulling the variety out of India

Commentary: Syed Mohammad Ali of Pakistan's Express Tribune examines role of agribusiness in Indian farmer suicides, places large portion of blame on Bt cotton seeds, criticizes New York Times' coverage for not telling the full story, and for ignoring Vandana Shiva

Commentary: Author, activist questions who is to blame for farmer pesticide poisonings in India, notes area has high concentration of Bt cotton planting, says farming becoming more hazardous due to GM crop cultivation

Commentary: Writing Part 2 of organic farming series for Manila Bulletin, Philippine government ag expert Emil Javier explains organic crops are not pesticide-free, recommends organic sector replace older pesticides with new, better options whether they are synthetic or natural, notes negative effect of copper sulfate on honeybees

More Asia items

Europe

News: French ag news outlet reports on Confederation paysanne's proposal that French dairy sector

convert to 100 percent non-GMO fed by 2021

News: EurActiv reports Bayer will launch transparency initiative next week, granting EU consumers access to product safety data, with goal of restoring trust following EU decision to reauthorize glyphosate for five years

Commentary: David King, credited as one of the founders of the anti-GM food campaign, writes for The Ecologist, summarizing successes in the movement over the past 20 years, looking ahead to future challenges in opposition to gene editing

Commentary: Belgian news outlet editorial notes many ag decisions are politicized by environment groups, points to relative lack of outcry on most recent GM trial proposals, argues glyphosate debate demonstrates that the loudest voices are not necessarily informed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Under Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Enzo Benech's acknowledgement of delays in approvals of new biotech events, he believes the regulatory framework is excellent, notes the decision is political

News: Mexican news site reports pressure from indigenous people groups caused agency to revoke Monsanto's permit to market GM soy in 7 states, claiming the business failed to establish controls to prevent GM soy cultivation; however the agribusiness is challenging the decision in court

News: Financial Times reports Argentina bans over 60 activists from WTO meeting in Buenos Aires due to fear of protests, highlights statements from Friends of the Earth and Global Justice Now

News: Brazilian news site reports Unicamp professor says biotechnology sector is in decline, says Bayer's purchase of Monsanto points to industry struggling to stay alive

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Alan Broughton of Australia's Green Left profiles Vandana Shiva and Navdanya, claims industrial ag practices involving GM seeds and pesticides threaten biodiversity and human health, praises her work to protect seed biodiversity

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:00 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

Today's global biotechnology developments included media coverage of Kenya's successful field trial of a drought- and insect-resistant maize. Activists in Mexico claimed international agricultural companies were attempting to undermine judicial powers protecting native environments.

- Researchers with the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project held a news conference Wednesday to highlight the success of a GM maize field trial. *The Star* reported that the maize had proven resistant to fall armyworm and was drought-tolerant. WEMA researcher Murenga Mwimali noted that the country's ban on GM crops currently would prevent farmers from utilizing the crop. **See more**
- Activists with the Colectividad del Maíz told news outlets that a group of transnational agriculture companies, led by DuPont, was seeking to overturn judges' ability to stop GM crop cultivation. The activists pointed to recent decisions blocking maize and soy plantings and said they were "certain" that the country's supreme court would uphold the judicial power. **See more**
- Indian organic agriculture activist Vandana Shiva called for legal proceedings against Monsanto, claiming that the company's faulty Bt cotton crops led to farmer deaths. Shiva claimed that Monsanto had been behind the illegal spread of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds in several planting regions. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy looks at "The 5 Most Laughable Non-GMO Project Verified Products" in Forbes; list includes cat litter, "stuff with no G to M," junk food, and items that don't have a commercially available GMO alternative

Commentary: Writing for GMO Answers, farmer's daughter says people should keep up on agriculture with same diligence as seeing a doctor, urges readers to view Food Evolution to see how farmers grow safe food with GMOs for consumers and themselves

News: Harvest Public Media reports Hurricane Maria impacted large agribusinesses' seed research on the island

Commentary: March Against Monsanto criticizes Bayer video comparing skateboarding and GMOs, claims Bayer and Monsanto have committed "crimes against humanity"

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association extends deadline thru Dec. 4 for Arctic Apple scavenger hunt to identify stores selling GM Arctic Apples

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports scientists developed fall armyworm-resistant GM maize, scientists ask government to allow its use to help farmers deal with the pest

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on successful field trials of stem borer-resistant and drought tolerant GM maize, as part of Water Efficient Maize for Africa project, WEMA scientist Murenga Mwimali called for lift of Kenya's GMO ban

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on gov't efforts the get media's help in educating Nigerians about benefits of biotech, summarizes key points in GMO debate, highlights wide consensus on GMO safety, but also reports on studies that cast doubt on negative health effects

News: Ghana news site reports General Agricultural Workers' Union issue statement for National Farmers Day warning Plant Breeders Bill will undermine smallholder farmers with introduction of GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: IANS reports Vandana Shiva letter asks Union environment minister to conduct criminal investigation into Monsanto, alleging company contaminated country with illegal Bt cotton cultivation

Interview: Vietnamese news site talks to food security professor Paul PS Teng at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore about GM foods; Teng says some countries "strongly opposed to GMOs because they do not understand" what they are, asserts GMOs safe, and warns organic foods can not feed world

Letter to the editor: Mahaletchumy Arujanan of Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre writes to local news outlet in response to recent letters on GMOs, supports open discussion based on sound science, rather than scaremongering

Commentary: Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Micky Fenix recounts participation in recent Food Forum in Cebu City, where Teresa Ruelas of Cebu Farmers Market discussed efforts to block GM crops in the province

Announcement: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) announces it had a strong presence at recent Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium in Iowa, ICRISAT scientist Pooja Bhatnagar-Mathur spoke on importance of biotech for facilitating sustainable, nutritious and healthy food choices

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Organic farmer, Soil Association policy officer discuss NBTs with University of Oxford Food Climate Research Network blogger; farmer believes CRISPR gene editing should be adopted by organic industry, while Soil Assoc. says NBTs require GMO regulations

Commentary: Non-GMO association's blog notes Germany's Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety reports German seed is mostly GM-free; official says results prove it's possible to keep seeds GM-free and implement zero-tolerance policies

News release: German Non-GMO association announces there are 7,000 foods with GMO-free labeling, calls on Germany's "Jamaica coalition" government to ensure GMOs do not enter country without being labeled

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports Collective of Corn members denounces DuPont's call on Supreme Court to declare that ruling against GM corn cultivation is unconstitutional, supporters of the ban voiced

confidence that the court will rule in their favor

News: Mexican news source reports Jose Miguel Mulet presents book at international book fair; author tells news outlet public should feel comfortable eating GM food without fear

News: Mexican news site notes Jose Miguel Mulet's book explains biotechnology from a scientific viewpoint; says no technology is good or bad, it depends what you make with it, needs rigorous discussion without "so many lies"

Commentary: Nutritionist writing in Brazil news site claims GMOs harms soil, is inferior to organic food regarding nutrition, and GMOs treated with pesticides that harm health, cause cancer

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Cosmos magazine reports on Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences researchers' development of new GM plant breeding method, using magnetic nanoparticles to introduce foreign DNA into pollen, directly generating GM seeds from 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 South Australia's extension of a GM crop moratorium. Mexican activists continued to respond to the government's revocation of Monsanto's permits for GM soy release.

- South Australia's Lower House passed an extension of the state's moratorium on GM crop cultivation, finalizing the ban through 2025. Greens leader Mark Parnell called the decision a "significant advantage" for local farmers. **See more**
- Activists continued to respond to last week's news that Mexico's SENASICA had withdrawn permission for Monsanto to sell transgenic soy varieties. Writing in *La Jornada Maya*, a biologist with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) argued the gesture was meaningless given widespread illegal cultivation of the crops. In a news release, U.S. advocacy group Organic Consumers Association claimed the move was a victory for local communities. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Bad Science Debunked blogger writes positive review of Science Moms documentary, notes that while those who have been convinced by anti-GMO propaganda may not change their opinions, it is a helpful film for confused parents

Commentary: AgDaily's Ryan Tipps lists six takeaways from "Food Evolution" documentary, praises the film for demonstrating that food is an emotional issue, and that pro-GMO people do have a tribe, encourages readers to attend a screening or watch it streaming

News: Bloomberg reports on debate over organic health benefits, noting evidence claiming organic is more safe is far from clear, premium prices may not afford all that's promised

Commentary: Hoover Institution - Henry Miller explains science, worrisome trends such as conflating association and causation, increasing occurrences of flawed advocacy research designed to give a false result to support a cause, pointing to 2012 article by Seralini linking rat tumors to GM corn

Campaign: Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM urges supporters to contact five major retailers whose positions on GE salmon are unclear, and ask them to adopt clear, long-term policies

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: FAO Regional Office for Africa announces joint call with African Union Commission on African governments to adopt biotech to address food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in face of climate change and expected population growth

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu continues series on farmer distress with 13th article on Telangana's cotton farmers, negatively impacted by untimely rain, bollworm resistance to BG-2 technology, and the state's illegal sale of Bt3 seeds

News release: Chinese company Origin Agritech Ltd. announces it has entered a commercial biotechnology trait and corn germplasm license agreement with KWS SAAT SE, facilitating KWS' entry into China's corn biotech market

News: Pakistan's The International News reports agriculture technologists urge government to implement Seed Rules 2016 for biotech product registrations; experts say biotech applied by Pakistani farmers would enhance productivity, help address country's food security challenges

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Telegraph (U.K.) reports on Environment Secretary Michael Gove's statement that GM crops will continue to be banned post-Brexit, in order to secure future trade deal with the EU, trade deals with the U.S. may be compromised

Event: Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) to host Third Dialogue on the new Molecular Biology Techniques (Nov. 29, 2017), to facilitate open and transparent dialogue with all stakeholders

News release: Testbiotech, in context of event by Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) with focus on new breeding techniques, refers to BfR study which found that 82 percent of respondents want strict regulation and labeling of NBTs

News: EU Observer reports proposal to modify EU's comitology process has stalled, summarizes call for reform over frequent deadlock on controversial issues such as GMOs, highlights recent committee vote to renew glyphosate's license

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette amplifies Corporate Europe Observatory's complaint to Common Transparency Register, accusing Monsanto of failing to comply with legal transparency obligations by underreporting expenditures and groups representing its interests

Commentary: Swiss GM-Free Alliance amplifies German Federal Agency for nature conservation (BfN) report on products of new breeding techniques, argues their exclusion from Gene Technology Act would result in serious security gaps in Swiss risk assessments

Interview: Swiss news outlet interviews German Development Minister Gerd Muller, to help developing countries meet food needs of growing populations, he believes GM seeds are not the answer, but calls for a "green revolution from below" for small farmers

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: UNAM biologist writes in La Jornada Maya, says Senasica's withdrawal of GM soybean permits is laughable, noting that the technology is already in the country and will be very difficult to take away

News: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update reports Argentina announces commercial approval of GM soybean event, new biotech crop tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium herbicides and inhibitors of HPPD enzyme; commercial release of event requested jointly by Syngento Agro SA and Bayer SA

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on National Customs along with the Association of Oilseed and Wheat Producers' (Anapo) announcement of plans to use reagents to identify transgenic contraband grain entering the country

News: Bolivian news source reports customs officials and NGO representing oilseed and wheat producers promote use of reagents to identify transgenic and contraband grains that could be imported and labeled as produced in Bolivia; article also highlights efforts to prevent smuggling of contraband transgenics into country

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports on South Australia's approval of new six-year moratorium on GMOs, Greens MP Mark Parnell notes the ban means any decision to allow use of GM crops would require a vote of both houses of parliament

News release: Australian Green Party's South Australia Parliamentary Leader, Mark Parnell MLC announces passage of extension of South Australia's GMO moratorium for six years, Parnell argues the moratorium provides price premiums for state farmers

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 ongoing reporting on the Philippines' National Biotechnology Week. In the U.S., news outlets amplified a *Politico* article on potential rifts in food industry lobbying efforts.

- Media outlets in the Philippines continued to report on the country's National Biotechnology Week activities. Writing in *SunStar*, columnist Robert L. Domoguen recounted a speech in which the country's agriculture minister voiced his support for the development of Golden Rice. *Business Mirror* reported on a news conference where local researchers highlighted positive traits in biotech products and crops. **See more**
- U.S. food news outlets amplified a *Politico* report claiming that food companies were abandoning the Grocery Manufacturers Association lobbying group largely over conflicts on transparency policies and millennial-focused marketing. *Food Dive* quoted GMA communications exec Roger Lowe, who defended the organization's track record on GMO labeling. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Food Dive's Cathy Siegner weighs in on wave of food company departures from Grocery Manufacturers Association, in spite of efforts to meet transparency demands with recent GMO disclosure law, notes it may signal splintering within the trade group

News: MediaPost reports on recent big food company departures from Grocery Manufacturers Association, GMA's executive vice president of strategic communications Roger Lowe criticized Politico's coverage, notes recent efforts regarding GMO labeling

Event: NASEM committee to host first public meeting on study - "The Potential for Biotechnology to Address Forest Health" - featuring testimony from study sponsors and invited speakers (Dec. 1)

Video: Hammer Museum in Los Angeles hosts Q&A session with Neil Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Bill Nye and Scott Hamilton Kennedy following screening of Food Evolution documentary, moderated by UCLA Geneticist Bob Goldberg

Commentary: Writing for The Federalist, Julie Kelly argues by prioritizing fight against climate change, Pope Francis ignores real problems harming the poor, hungry for which he claims to advocate, citing his condemnation of GMOs among examples

News: SeafoodSource reports investing expert and HighQuest Partners managing director, Philippe de Laperouse sees big opportunities in aquaculture, on debate over GE salmon, he believes use of gene editing within species may be more publicly acceptable

More North America items

Africa

News release: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa establishes climate change-environment and consumer working groups to promote agroecological practices, products to address climate change and consumer nutrition/health

Commentary: Nayanika Mukherjee of India's Down to Earth examines whether GM crops are a viable solution to Africa's pest problems, points to growing rates of pest resistance to Bt crops, calls for more research on regional biotech applications

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Philippine Rice Research Institute exhibits climate change-ready rice varieties developed through biotechnology at National Biotechnology Week; representative says biotech can boost farmer yields, income

News: Filipino business news outlet reports on 13th National Biotechnology Week, where Saturnina Halos of Biotech Coalition of the Philippines explained there is no reason to fear GMOs, as we have consumed them for years in food, clothing and medicine

Commentary: Robert L. Domoguen of the Philippines' SunStar recounts recent event where Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. PiÃ±ol publicly expressed support for the golden rice project, highlights its importance in fighting vitamin A deficiency

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer provides background information on National Biotechnology Week, observed every last week of Nov. per Proclamation No. 1414, signed in 2007, to promote safe and responsible use of modern biotech

News: Indian news outlet reports on meeting organized by Bharat Krishak Samaj, where seed experts and farmers warned that multinational companies are pushing transgenic and hybrid seeds, emphasizing importance of seed sovereignty and biodiversity

News: Hindustan Times report examines cotton crisis in Maharashtra, emphasizing issues with pests developing resistance to crop protection treatments, Bt seeds will lay path for additional farmer debt, suicides

Commentary: The Hindu BusinessLine's A Srinivas writes positive review of "A Frayed History: The Journey of Cotton in India," highlights the book's discussion of Bt cotton and its declining performance over time

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies recent paper in Pest Management Science showing that 38 weed species have now developed resistance to glyphosate, and Crop and Pasture Science paper on resistance in Australia, calls for alternatives to GM crops

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on Sino-Pak International Conference on Innovations in Cotton Breeding and Biotechnology, where Chinese cotton expert Zhang Rui noted China has developed over 200 Bt varieties, and is ready to share technology with Pakistan

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on Sino-Pak international conference on â€˜Innovations in cotton, breeding and biotechnology,â€™ Chinese scientist Zhang Rui described developments in disease-resistant cotton, noting China is ready to transfer technology to Pakistan

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: European Seed Association says Agri-Food Chain Coalition innovation symposium emphasized importance of new technologies to feed growing EU population, called on EU institutions to ensure innovation is at center of food-ag policy

Report: European Food Safety Authority's Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms issues risk assessment for Bayer oilseed rape varieties for authorization renewal, finds there is no evidence of new hazards, modified exposure or scientific uncertainties

Report: European Food Safety Authority's GMO Panel issues risk assessment of Monsanto GM four-event stack maize variety and its 10 subcombinations, finds it is as safe and nutritious as its non-GM counterpart, and poses negligible environmental risk

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) promotes meeting of women farmers on agroecology and food sovereignty on Nov. 28, with goal of increasing articulation and knowledge in favor of sustainable agriculture

Commentary: Juan Castellanos of Dominican publication Listin Diario examines diseases plaguing citrus crops in the region, promotes biotech as a viable solution for resistance, believes GMOs will eventually be accepted in spite of current widespread opposition

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Australia Department of Health schedules public webinars for consultation for national gene technology regulatory scheme (Nov. 28 and Dec. 6); phase two consultation comment period closes Dec. 15

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, November 27, 2017 9:02 07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that an activist group had sued for information on GM crop cultivation in Ghana. European news outlets reported on efforts to develop a low-gluten gene-edited wheat.

- Ghana's *Joy* reported that advocacy group Food Sovereignty Ghana filed a lawsuit against the National Biosafety Committee seeking information on whether efforts to commercialize Bt rice and cowpea had complied with local regulations. The lawsuit is similar to the group's February 2015 suit, which was struck down by the court. A spokesperson for Food Sovereignty Ghana said that further legal actions could follow in an attempt to demonstrate that GM crops are not needed in the country. **See more**
- European media outlets amplified news that Spanish researchers have successfully developed a wheat with reduced toxins for gluten allergy sufferers. The findings were released in Plant Biotechnology Journal. *The Independent* quoted a representative of Coeliac U.K., who said that celiac disease patients were likely to embrace wheat without "problem" gluten. **See more**
- Science communicators affiliated with the "Science Moms" documentary, writing in *Medium*, criticized U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam for claiming in her book "Whitewash" that documentary participants were funded by Monsanto. The authors go on to refute that and other claims and call for a nuanced dialogue on science issues that don't revert to insults about funding. **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: Science Moms Alison Bernstein, Anastasia Bodnar, Jenny Splitter, Kavin Senapathy, Layla Katiraee and Natalie Newell write for Medium, addressing misogyny inherent in shill accusations against them, criticizing Carey Gilliam's accusations in her new book

Video: Biology Fortified, Inc., posts YouTube video of interview with Neal Carter, president of Okanagan Specialty Fruits, updating the release to stores of its Arctic Apples; Carter says testing showed consumers found idea of biotech "less scary" when process of genetically engineering non-browning apple explained to them

Commentary: Organic Authority's Emily Monaco examines whether label fatigue is diluting meaning of certified organic, points to recent study showing that consumers equate non-GMO with organic, promotes new certified transitional and regenerative labels

News: Canadian news outlet reports Ecology Action Centre and the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network will host U.K.-based biologist and molecular geneticist, Ricarda Steinbrecher, in talk about GMOs, amid concerns surrounding GE salmon, apples and potatoes

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana's Joy reports on Food Sovereignty Ghana's lawsuit against gov't over plans to commercialize Bt cowpea and Bt rice, Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association (GNAFF) dismissed the suit as action without merit

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Nkechi Isaac examines Nigeria's public education campaign on GMOs, Nigeria chapter coordinator for the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, Rose Gidado, noted importance of media in sensitizing the public

News: Epoch Times reports on increase in Burkina Faso's cotton yields after switching from Monsanto's variety to conventional seed, highlights Interprofessional Association of Cotton in Burkina's (AICB) call for compensation from the company

Commentary: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa promotes its recent agroecology training session in Thika, Kenya, led by Colombian agronomist Jairo Restrepo, who pointed out implications of regional trade agreements on seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino business news outlet reports on recent statement by head of Department of Agriculture's Crop Biotechnology Center, Roel R. Suralta, in which he explained how biotech speeds up the breeding process, boosts yields and improves farmer incomes

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports remarks by Vandana Shiva claiming chemical fertilizers and pesticides hurting India's seed diversity, harmful effects of Bt cotton causing stress for nation's farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News: Independent (U.K) reports on development of low-gluten CRISPR wheat by Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in Spain, Coeliac U.K. CEO Sarah Sleet noted the development is a technique of interest to people with coeliac disease

News: U.K.'s Daily Mail reports Spanish researchers use CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing tool to create new kind of wheat with only 15 percent of gliadins, a form of gluten, found in normal wheat; people who suffer from celiac disease and those who follow "clean eating" movement avoid gluten

News: Russia Today reports scientists at Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in Spain use CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing method to remove most gliadins, a type of gluten, from wheat; development could help people with celiac disease who have an immune response to glutens in wheat, rye, barley

Commentary: Editor for Belgium's De Standaard examines lack of objection to Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) proposal for GM maize field trials, in spite of widespread opposition in the past, highlights Greenpeace's admission that they are focusing on other issues

Commentary: Food Climate Research Network posts blog by one of authors of ETH Zurich's study on feeding world with organic agriculture, summarizing its findings that efforts to implement sustainable agriculture need to address whole food system, including consumption and not only production

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Paraguayan news outlet reports on Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (Inbio) report finding that maize yields have grown 33 percent after adoption of biotech crops, Inbio manager Estela Ojeda highlighted resulting economic benefits of boosted yields

News release: Argentinian NGO Confluencia Fuera OMC announces press conference on Nov. 30 to

present program for its Week of Action against the WTO from Dec. 7-13, denouncing trade within framework of capitalism as a false development proposal

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Morena party platform's statement that NAFTA is a "useful instrument," the platform objects to entry of transgenic maize, pointing to negative impacts of indiscriminate maize importation on small farmers and biodiversity

News: Cuban news outlet reports Mexcian civil court rules to uphold suspension of GM corn commercialization, according to members of Colectividad del Maiz, Oaxacan resident ValentÃn Genaro noted the ban will remain in place until Supreme Court ruling

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food's (Sagarpa) revocation of Monsanto's GM soybean permits in seven states, for failure to fulfill necessary controls to prevent risks to the environment

News: Yucatan news outlet reports on claims by International Mangrove Network representative Marco Antonio Rodriguez Vadillo that spread of Monsanto's GM soybeans is a result of gov't corruption, and leads to health and ecological risks

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Argentine Workers' Central Union (CTA) member organizations' formation of Council of Development of the Food Sovereignty, with goal of protecting seed biodiversity in face of so-called "Monsanto law"

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Agronomic Institute of Campinas' (IAC) development of GM orange resistant to yellow and citrus canker caused by bacteria Xylella fastidiosa and Xanthomonas citri, respectively

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 27, 2017
Date: Monday, November 27, 2017 4:03 58 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features several pieces with a common theme: Look closer to find the real truth.

In a piece written for *Forbes*, Kavin Senapathy explains how the Non-GMO Project's label is essentially meaningless and conveys a false sense of morality and responsibility. Mark Lynas describes how an academic paper claiming that organic farming could feed the world is counting on some unrealistic developments - including a massive shift toward vegetarianism - in order to reach that goal. And Emil Javier similarly details how organic farming's supposed benefits are far from reality.

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: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) is a leading promoter and amplifier of claims that low doses of alleged endocrine-disrupting chemicals are causing a wide range of public health risks. With help from science advisor and

Stories Worth Sharing

Kavin Senapathy: "No label exemplifies meaningless buzzwords better than the Non-GMO Project"

Mark Lynas: Paper claiming organic farming can feed the world relies on "impossible" scenarios

Matt Ridley: "Short-sighted opposition to biotechnology" leaving African farmers at the mercy of pests and diseases

Emil Javier: Benefits from higher-cost organic farming "more perceptions than reality"

Ronald Bailey: Genetically modified virus could save Florida oranges if "bioluddites" don't get in the way

Andrew Porterfield: Gene editing holds promise for crop breeding if public and regulators are willing to accept it

Angela Logomasini: Why a fully organic Thanksgiving was "simply not necessary" for public health

Hank Campbell: 1950s Thanksgiving cranberry scare helped lay foundations for today's endocrine disruption fear-mongering

Bob Barr: Debunked IARC claims about glyphosate causing cancer leads to "major comeback" of cocaine crops in Colombia

Collegium Ramazzini president Philip Landrigan, CHE promotes organic diets to prevent autism, cancer and other ills while lobbying to ban pesticides and other chemicals. CHE is a project of Commonweal, which promotes a range of litigation tactics targeting environmental pollution allegations involving chemicals.

To learn more about CHE, click HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Profile: Alison Van Eenennaam "one of agriculture's leading voices of reason"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Union approves 5-year reauthorization of glyphosate

Mexican courts blocks sowing of genetically modified corn / Government revokes permit for Monsanto GM soy

French court strikes down government approval of two sulfoxaflor-based pesticides due to concerns about bee health

Thai NGO federation says it will sue government after tests found glyphosate, atrazine, paraquat on vegetables

Calendar highlights

November 28-30	November 28-30	November 29-30
Scientific Advisory Panel on endocrine disruption screening methods	4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture	Sustainable Foods Summit Asia-Pacific
November 30	November 30 - December 1	November 30
POLITICO EU Agriculture and Food Summit	Joint international symposium on risk assessment and consumer health protection	Philippines presentation of the findings of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 23-26, 2017
Date: Sunday, November 26, 2017 11 01:45 PM

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 Thanksgiving holiday weekend included two setbacks for biotechnology in Mexico. At the Food and Agriculture Organization regional ag biotech meeting in Ethiopia, the country's agricultural minister highlighted biotech's ability to increase production.

- International media reported a Mexican regulatory agency revoked Monsanto's permit to commercialize GM soy in seven states. *Reuters* reported Monsanto's response that the permit was withdrawn based "on unwarranted legal and technical grounds." Mexican news site *Reforma* reported the action was taken because Monsanto's GM soy was planted in areas where it is not authorized. **See more**
- A Mexican court rejected an appeal to lift a ban on commercial GM maize planting. The court found it is not authorized to rule on the matter, so it will be determined by the Supreme Court. *Agencia EFE* reported the decision maintains the ban. A *La Jornada San Luis* editorial called the decision, along with the ban on GM soy, a beginning of policy "that prioritizes food security, the conservation of agricultural heritage and the protection of health." **See more**
- Chinese news agency *Xinhua* reported Ethiopian Minister Eyasu Abraha said the country is promoting biotechnology use to increase food production and nutrition. Conference participant Rajeev Varshney wrote for India's Down to Earth, noting that many biotech products would help improve food security while using fewer resources. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Politico reports Italy's most powerful farmers' union, Coldiretti, has launched campaign to resist Canadian wheat imports that have been sprayed with glyphosate during the harvest period; Canada sees stance as a protectionist trade policy having nothing to do with safety standards

Commentary: Center for Food Safety's Bill Freese highlights recent testimony at FDA public meeting on its biotech outreach initiative, criticizes statements by Biology Fortified's Karl Haro von Mogel, calls on FDA to avoid myths put out by biotech industry

Commentary: Center for Food Safety urges FDA, USDA not to present as fact what CFS says are discredited claims about GE crops and food; adds biotechnology's "poster child" Golden Rice has not saved a single child from vitamin A deficiency

Commentary: Ronald Bailey writes for Reason Foundation, describes development of GE virus to combat citrus greening, and USDA's expected authorization for use in 2019, hopes anti-science groups won't disparage the fruit from treated trees

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Taiwo Hassan of Nigeria's New Telegraph argues recent rejection of 90 tonnes of unapproved GM maize should serve as wake-up call that Nigeria is not ready for GMOs, claims Monsanto seeks to control food staples under false humanitarian pretext

Commentary: Huffington Post South Africa columnist says it's time for Africa to embrace GM technologies, which could reduce insecticide use, reducing input costs while maximizing yield for farmers

Commentary: Nigerian news site columnist says technology, including GMOs, can drive agricultural growth in Nigeria; praises start-ups such as Farmcrowdy that infuse technology into farming

More Africa items

Asia

News: Pakistani news site reports ag conference concludes with hope Pakistani cotton will be disease-free with Chinese genetic technology; completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would strengthen relations between the countries

Commentary: Third World Network says GM cotton now failing to control pink bollworm as pests become resistant to Bt toxin, leading to increase in insecticide usage

News: The Hindu reports more Indian farmers using native cotton variety, hope to make as much profit as with Bt cotton seed

Commentary: Dr. Emil Javier notes organic farming trend produces lower yields, higher priced food; notes organic farmers claim chemicals and pesticides destroy soils, but notes Rothamstedt, University of Illinois plots continuously farmed since mid-19th century without problems

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Dutch-Belgian law firm posts article analyzing what EU Court of Justice's decision in Fidenato case means for Member States, which now must not adopt national emergency measures prohibiting certain authorized GMOs on sole basis of precautionary principle

News: French news site reports anti-GM activists converged on a shipping port to protest imports of GM soybeans, were blocked in tense but cordial encounter with dock workers

Commentary: Italy's Luca Coscioni Association criticizes Italian gov't for failing to support agricultural research, including new techniques such as CRISPR, accuses Ministers Galletti and Martina of holding the scientific process hostage

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports on Monsanto's statement criticizing Mexico's ag sanitation authority SENASICA for withdrawing its GM soy permit in seven states, arguing the withdrawal was made on unwarranted legal and technical grounds

News: Reuters reports Argentina authorizes new genetically modified soybean seeds resistant to herbicides other than glyphosate as EU debates whether to extend glyphosate license; ag expert says it's not clear if potential glyphosate ban in Europe would impact shipments of soy-based products from Argentina

Commentary: Mexican news site claims Monsanto conspired to have GM soy cultivated in fields against

court orders, blames "complicity and corruption" in institutions; claims effect on environment is irreversible, according to Greenpeace

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand urges government to protect "market advantage" as GE-free nation during negotiations for new version of TPP, notes GE-free conditions were being negotiated away during previous TPP negotiations because they were seen as barriers for trade

News: Australia's Grain Central recaps panel discussion featuring ag industry leaders on gene editing's possibilities for agriculture, whether regulation keeping up with latest developments, will consumers accept gene-editing more readily than they have GMOs

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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Events calendar

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 22, 2017
Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 4 50:43 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration's public release of comments on an agricultural biotechnology education campaign. Mexican news outlets previewed an expected Friday court decision on the country's GM maize moratorium.

- Following the Nov. 17 conclusion of a comment period, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration posted over 500 comments submitted in response to its questions about agricultural biotechnology outreach. Several industry groups - including the National Milk Producers Federation and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization - highlighted the importance of explaining GM crop safety. Activists with Soil Not Oil, Center for Food Safety and Consumers Union urged the agency to be clear about agricultural biotechnology's drawbacks. **See more**
- *La Jornada* reported that a First Circuit Court is expected to decide Friday (Nov. 24) on whether to extend Mexico's four-year GM maize moratorium. Reporter Angelica Enciso noted that 26 amparo lawsuits had been filed against commercialization of the crops and highlighted Colectividad del Maíz claims that transgenic maize varieties threaten landrace varieties. **See more**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent Sunday, Nov. 26. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

News: Agri-Pulse reports on various stakeholders' comments to FDA on its biotech outreach program, Biotechnology Innovation Organization noted that while many consumers are concerned about GMO safety, they do not understand what GMOs are

Announcement: U.S. FDA posts comment received from Grocery Manufacturers Association under Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, suggesting FDA consider prioritizing messages to consumers that products of ag biotech techniques as safe as conventional

Commentary: Geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam submits comment to FDA on its biotech outreach program, she argues simply presenting consumers with scientific facts will not be effective, suggests partnership with Cooperative Extension System

Announcement: U.S. FDA posts comment received from Center for Food Safety under Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, urging agency to mandate on-package labeling of foods containing GMOs, not rely solely on information provided by corporations producing GMOs

News: WIRED reports on release of non-browning GM Arctic apples in U.S. stores, highlights Okanagan Specialty Fruits' Neal Carter's description of long regulatory process, reports other biotech companies will closely monitor consumer reception

Commentary: Alli Willis of Non-GMO Project's lifestyle site, Living Non-GMO amplifies articles on

negative impacts of Bt crops on human health and the environment, including Jonathan Latham's "supertoxin" paper, and GenOk paper on insect resistance

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) signing of Memorandum of Understanding with National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) on proper GMO regulation

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: International Service for the Aquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications announces release of final declaration by 2017 International Food Biotechnology and Biosafety Workshop in Ankara, Turkey, emphasizing need for modern biotech for sustainable ag

News: Times of India reports seed and pesticide industry associations deny responsibility in recent pesticide-related deaths, Crop Life India called for case-by-case investigations to determine exact causes

More Asia items

Europe

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service annual GAIN Report on agricultural biotechnology in Bulgaria notes government views ag biotech skeptically, NGOs push anti-biotech agenda, government has opted out in terms of cultivation, poultry and livestock stakeholders continue to import biotech feed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports First Collegiate Court in Civil Matters of the First Circuit will decide on whether or not to maintain precautionary measure prohibiting GM corn cultivation on Friday, Nov. 24, 2017

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent event at San Miguel ArcÃingel church in Tancanhuitz, where local community groups met to promote conservation of native corn varieties and oppose introduction of transgenics

Commentary: Victor Toledo of Mexico's Regeneracion criticizes recent La Gaceta Universitaria article in support of GMOs, claims GMOs negatively impact human health and the environment, calls for a UNAM discussion forum

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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database	calendar	community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:01 56 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 reporting on the launch of "Biotechnology Week" in the Philippines. In the U.S., lawmakers and agriculture stakeholders warned of the impacts of a withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

- The *Philippines Information Agency* reported on the launch of National Biotechnology Week in Quezon City. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Deputy House Speaker Sharon Garin emphasized the environmental and economic benefits of GM crop farming. A local media report noted highlighted a "farmer-artist" show on the theme of biotechnology in agriculture. **See more**
- In separate statements, U.S. senators and Texas Farm Bureau representatives warned the U.S. Commerce Secretary that a withdrawal from NAFTA could have widespread negative consequences for the country's agricultural sector. The Texas group noted that the sector employed over half a million people while the senators called for a detailed analysis of the trade agreement's impact. **See more**
- French media outlets reported on Coordination Rurale protests over the country's importation of GM soybeans. Local news sites claimed that over 200 activists blockaded ports in Lorient and Montoir-de-Bretagne. In a statement to *Agence France-Presse*, a spokesperson for the group linked the event to concerns over the European Union's discussions on glyphosate. **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: BIO's Karen Batra highlights role of biotechnology in producing many favorite Thanksgiving foods, including sweet corn, squash, cheese, potatoes, beer and sugar that sweetens pumpkin pie

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield touts use of CRISPR technology in crop breeding to introduce desirable traits, make crops less susceptible to plant diseases, notes food industry members created Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture to spark conversations

Commentary: Monsanto amplifies Animal Frontiers article examining "why scientists and regulators are confident in food products derived from livestock that have been fed GM animal feed"

Video: Institute for Responsible Technology posts Jeffrey Smith video denouncing "Peel Back the Label" campaign, claims "biotech bullies created yet another front group to mislead the public and attack major companies who commit to non-GMO ingredients"

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director General

Rufus Ebegba's explanation of the agency's neutral stance on GMOs, noting its job is not to stop or promote GMOs, but to ensure their safety for humans and the environment

News: Nigeria's state-run news agency reports director-general of National Biosafety Management Agency calls it unbiased umpire in matters relating to GMOs to ensure practice of modern biotechnology safe for citizens while boosting nation's economy, notes mandate to ensure GMOs safe for health, environment

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippine Information Agency reports on opening ceremonies of 13th National Biotechnology Week in Quezon City; keynote speaker Deputy House Speaker Sharon Garin underscores importance of biotechnology for food security, highlighting increased yields, environmentally friendly practices

News: Philippine business news site reports farmer-artist showcasing painting exhibition titled "Linang: Agriculture biotechnology and art" during National Biotechnology Week Nov. 20-24 in Quezon City; farmer-artist says biotechnology is key to tackle food security

News: The Hindu reports pink bollworm affected nearly half of Maharashtra's cotton crop, with potential losses of Rs. 10,000 crore, according to Kishore Tiwari of Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalmban Mission, who called for an alternative to Monsanto's Bt cotton

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Thierry Levent and Michel Gay write for France's Contrepoints, criticizing ideology of fear surrounding GM food, pesticides and endocrine disruptors, they note some organic pesticides are toxic, point to organic-related food poisoning incidents

News: Ouest-France reports on Coordination Rurale's protest in Lorient, where over 200 people gathered in opposition to imports of GM soybeans

News: French news site reports on protest at port of Lorient by Coordination Rurale against glyphosate-treated GM soybeans, adding they want to take samples to prove soybeans entering France are GM

News release: University of Cambridge announces publication of report by Bonnie Wintle and Christian R. Boehm from Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, highlighting potential benefits and risks of future biotech and synbio applications

Campaign: Poland's Institute of Citizens Affairs (INSPRO) announces launch of signature campaign appealing to Ag Ministry for introduction of a GMO-free label, includes a competition for signatories, who may submit artwork on theme of food security

More Europe items

Latin America

Video: Brazil's Chamber of Deputies posts YouTube video on Environment Committee public hearing on GM foods in the country

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent FAO report showing 42 million Latin Americans are hungry, La Via Campesina argues hunger is not due to lack of food, points to negative impacts of industrial ag practices, such as GM crop and pesticide use

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on changes in food labeling next year, Municipality of Montevideo Director of Social Development, Fabiana Goyeneche pointed to gov't resolution to change the GM label so that it does not misleadingly serve as a warning

Commentary: CLOC-Via Campesina reports on Continental Conference for Democracy and against Neoliberalism in Montevideo Nov. 16-18 with "at least" three thousand activists from 23 countries, fight against WTO and transnational corporations highlighted

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Agribusiness consultant and former Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association CEO, Jan Davis, writes for Australia's Mercury, analyzing results of recent survey on public attitudes towards GMOs, notes relying on rational argument alone won't work

News: Australian produce news outlet reports on DuPont Pioneer's Kevin Diehl's recent speech at TropAg 2017 in Brisbane, in which he called on scientists to engage with the public on gene editing and biotech, noting facts don't always work

News: Australian news site reports South Australian farmers are enraged after bill narrowly passes extending GM crop moratorium until at least 2025; ag groups call move "anti-science" and "unmitigated disaster", Greens applaud move for protecting organic industry

News release: University of Queensland announces plans to launch new Centre for Horticultural Science in 2018, to be led by ag biotechnologist Neena Mitter, with goal of growing horticulture through high-tech approaches of big data, genomics and biotech

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 20, 2017
Date: Monday, November 20, 2017 9:01:26 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 commentary included criticism of European agricultural policies on new plant breeding techniques and GM crop imports. In Africa, Ugandan researchers previewed a new disease-resistant banana variety.

- Highlighting France's ongoing Etats généraux de l'alimentation (State of Food) consultations, the NGO France Nature Environnement issued a statement criticizing the country's Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies (HCB) for proposing a product-based regulatory system on plants developed through gene editing. Calling the decision "vague," the group accused the HCB of facilitating agribusiness rather than supporting an agroecological model. **See more**
- French advocacy group Coordination Rurale previewed protests scheduled for Tuesday (Nov. 21) at ports in Lorient and St. Nazaire. In a statement, the group claimed that Europe's importation of GM soybeans from the U.S. and South America threatened local farmers and undermined food sovereignty goals. It also warned of potential health implications from glyphosate residues. **See more**
- Researchers with Uganda's National Agricultural Research Laboratories told reporters with *The Observer* that a disease-resistant banana with higher levels of beta carotene was on track for distribution in 2021. The researchers added that the agency had several beneficial crops under development and praised the recently passed biosafety law for allowing field trials. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes about hypocrisy of Non-GMO Project, notes difficulty of defining "genetically modified organism," discusses how GMO opponents have tried to turn debate into social justice issue, laments targeting of women by anti-GMO activists trying to frame food safety as feminist issue

Commentary: Jayson Lusk publishes article in Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, evaluating farm and food policy proposals of the so-called Food Movement, argues recent proposals lack consistency, and misjudge changes in food and agriculture

News: Seafood Source reports on AquaBounty CEO Ronald Stotish's response to Sobeys' decision not to sell its GE salmon, he voiced disappointment that groups such as Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) continue to misrepresent their product

Commentary: Jeffrey Smith of Institute for Responsible Technology warns consumers about health risks of consuming Arctic apples, amplifying University of Canterbury geneticist Jack Heinemann's claims that dsRNA can change human gene expression

News: Carbon Brief reports on outcomes of COP23 talks in Bonn, parties agreed to work on issues linking agriculture and climate change, FAO praised the outcome as a major step toward adapting agriculture to climate change and meeting growing global food demand

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) researchers announce field trials for GM bananas, resistant to bacterial wilt and with pro-vitamin A, are ready to go, in hopes of public release in 2021

Commentary: Thomas Lewton of South Africa's Raddington Report examines potential for GM crops to address Africa's food crises, highlighting University of Cape Town researcher Jill Farrant's work on drought resistance, argues GMOs and agroecology are not at odds

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science Fellow Nkechi Isaac examines many benefits of Bt cowpea currently under development in Nigeria, highlights its potential to boost nutrition, notes reduced insecticide use will save costs, protect humans and environment

News release: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa criticizes African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) for continuing to exclude civil society and farmer groups from meetings, speaks out against "draconian" seed law

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Former Advanta Seeds CEO Ram Kaundinya writes for India's Mint, criticizes India's regulatory systems for biotech and seed industry, provides recommendations on how gov't can promote innovation and curb illegal GM seed use

News: Brazilian farming news outlet reports on China's growing investment in agricultural biotech research, highlights several products in development and there benefits to farmers, human health and the environment, and collaborations with Brazil

More Asia items

Europe

News release: France's Coordination Rurale announces protest on Nov. 21 at ports of Lorient and St. Nazaire in opposition to imports of glyphosate-resistant GM soybeans

Commentary: Matt Ridley of U.K.'s The Times promotes use of GM Bt maize to solve Africa's fall armyworm crisis, criticizes short-sighted opposition to biotech

Commentary: France environmental NGO criticizes opinion issued by nation's High Council for Biotechnology that finds products of new plant breeding techniques should be studied on case-by-case basis; group's president says "new GMOs" not right choice for country to make transition to agroecology

Commentary: U.K.-based anti-GMO author Pat Thomas writes article for new sustainable food magazine, Locavore, claims GMOs were released into the human food chain without any safety testing, voices concerns about patents on seeds

Report: European Food Safety Authority publishes guidance for risk assessment of low level presence of GM plant material in imported food and feed, recommends targeted compositional analysis on case-by-case basis

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Cuban news outlet reports on opening of International Congress of Agricultural Sciences, Agrociencias 2017 in Havana, Mario Pablo Estrada of Havana-based Center of Genetic Engineering and

Biotechnology delivered keynote speech on biotech in the 21st Century

Commentary: La Jornada runs op-ed by prominent Mexican agronomist criticizing MasAgro project intended for sustainable modernization of traditional agriculture, claiming project has effect of creating seed brokers that enable "transnationals" to take over nation's seed industry, displace native maize

Announcement: Website for Latin American and Caribbean social justice NGOs posts final "Declaration of Montevideo" coming out of Continental Conference for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism, includes call for mobilization to repudiate WTO Ministerial Summit in Buenos Aires in December

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Weekly Times reports on likely extension of South Australia's GM crop ban through 2025 after passage in Parliament's upper house, highlights opposition to the extension by Grain Producers South Australia and CropLife

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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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 20, 2017
Date: Monday, November 20, 2017 4:02:48 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As Americans gather to celebrate Thanksgiving this week, it's the first time - as Julianna LeMieux points out in her piece on this week's newsletter - that genetically modified Arctic Apples could be part of the recipe for the post-turkey apple pie. She explains that apples have been genetically manipulated for years and years, with this latest change being "not much" different than apples from before. In a separate column, Amanda Zaluckyj suggests more than farmers should be thanked for the holiday feast - scientists, safety testers and many others play a role in getting our food from seed to table.

So, as we mark this occasion, here's a hearty thank you for your contributions to our network and beyond.

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: International College of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine

Last week, anti-GMO and anti-pesticide activist Jeffrey Smith was back in the news for publishing a self-described "peer reviewed" article on the health benefits of removing GMOs from your diet. The article appeared in

Stories Worth Sharing

Julianna LeMieux: A new, genetically modified apple could be in your pie this Thanksgiving

Amanda Zaluckyj: Scientists, safety testers and others - not just farmers - deserve thanks for Thanksgiving bounty

MEP Christofer Fjellner: Greens using activist IARC scientists to "dress up their purely ideological arguments in scientific reasoning"

Simran Sethi: "Concerning" study suggest consumers willing to pay similar premium for organic and non-GMO products

Marcel Kuntz: Official inquiry into International Agency for Research on Cancer needed after glyphosate "scandal"

Jennie Schmidt: American ignorance about GMOs puts African subsistence farmers in peril

Ralph Martin: Organic crop yields up to one-quarter lower than conventional

Ghanaian agriculture researcher urges farmers to give "scientifically proven" biotechnology a chance

Val Giddings: U.S. FDA must allay "false fears" about GMOs and provide correct information

the International Journal of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine published by a non-accredited alternative health "college."

Reacquaint yourself with Smith and learn more about the college that published his paper HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Karl Haro von Mogel: U.S. FDA meeting brings together "diverse voices" on biotechnology

Mark Lynas: Swing dance instructor Jeffrey Smith spreads anti-GMO claims with biased survey results in scientific-looking journal

Bob Brockie: New Zealand biotechnology regulations rank as most antiquated in the world

Australian researchers develop genetically modified banana resistant to Panama disease

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What's Trending?

Monsanto, U.S. farm groups file suit in bid to block listing of glyphosate under California's Prop 65

U.K. researchers claim study found thiamethoxam exposure can reduce bumblebees' abilities to buzz and collect pollen

Proposal to extend South Australia GMO ban until 2025 passes Upper House of Parliament

European Food Safety Authority delays release of neonic review until February

Calendar highlights

November 20	November 20-21	November 22
Royal Society of Medicine workshop: "Pesticides and food: is low dose exposure harmful?"	U.S. National Academy of Sciences committee meeting on "pathways to a paradigm shift in toxicity testing and decision making"	India court hearing on genetically modified mustard
November 22-24	**November 22**	**November 23**
FAO meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Africa	College of Commissioners to discuss next steps for European EDC criteria	Inf'OGM happy hour debate on GMOs

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 17-19, 2017
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2017 9:04 51 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 news over the weekend included reporting and commentary on the United Nations climate summit in Germany. Biotechnology workshops in Ghana have farmers seeking GM seed. Media reported that a study indicated organic farming can feed the world if other goals are met internationally.

- *Reuters* reported the UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, "broke a long stalemate on agriculture" and should help governments establish wise policies that help reduce greenhouse gas releases from the agricultural sector. Activist Vandana Shiva wrote in a *Deutsche Welle* op-ed that we cannot manipulate natural ecosystems through genetic engineering but must work to develop biomass and biodiversity. **See more**
- Ghanaian news sites reported that recent biotechnology workshops have scientists struggling to meet growing demand by farmers for GM seed. *A Business & Financial Times* article noted a recent Women in Science forum in which speakers highlighted the benefits of biotech seeds. **See more**
- The Guardian and other media reported that a study published in the *Nature Communications* journal indicates that if the world turns to organic farming, it could feed 9 billion people by 2050. However, those results depend upon drastically cutting food waste and significantly reducing consumption of animal products. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Reuters reports UN climate talks at COP 23 in Germany broke long stalemate on agriculture, leaders now hope to focus more on making agriculture less polluting, better able to cope with climate change

Commentary: Molecular biologist with The American Council on Science and Health explains genetic manipulation "has been part of apple breeding as long as edible apples have been around", and only difference between organic and GMO Arctic apples "is whether the manipulation was done in a greenhouse or a lab"

Commentary: Friends of the Earth analyst writes extensive piece warning that NAFTA renegotiations could hamper efforts to regulate glyphosate, neonics, dicamba, genetically modified seeds and animal antibiotic usage

Commentary: Biology Fortified's Karl Haro von Mogel recounts recent participation in FDA Biotech Education and Outreach public meeting in San Francisco, examines problems in statements made by reps. from Center for Food Safety and Consumers Union

News: Tech news outlet reports on Food Loves Tech expo in Brooklyn, Marion Nestle criticized GMOs as a means of corporate control of the food supply, while former White House chef Sam Kass emphasized importance of technology to feed growing population

News: Science News reports gene-editing tools seen as way to fight disease-spreading mosquitoes and

more may be too powerful to use in current form, two new papers say; adds computer simulation shows standard gene drives can make tweaked DNA spread easily, affecting new territory

Commentary: Kevin Folta continues to call out "anti-GMO darling" Don Huber of Purdue for his "Molecular Bigfoot" claims of pathogen harbored on Roundup Ready crops; posts excerpts of Huber's letter of complaint to Folta's university administration, and says Huber "continues to tour the planet, telling his tall tales to farmers and lay audiences"

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports on Secretary General of African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) Justin Rakotoarisaona's statement that African farmers will benefit greatly once they embrace biotech, emphasizing importance of coexistence between biotech and conventional crops

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports recent biotech sensitization workshops leave scientists struggling to meet farmers' growing demand for seeds, highlights recent Women in Science forum in Accra, where speakers promoted many benefits of ag biotech

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Bill Gates says Indian farmers need to integrate technology and use newer, higher yielding seed to increase productivity

News: The Times of India amplifies data from Central Institute of Cotton Research finding 50 percent of cotton in Vidarbha is pest infested lowering yield by 30 percent, notes pink bollworm is likely to have developed resistance to Bt cotton seed engineered to be resistant to the worm

News: Indian news service reports for agri-biotechnology industry in India the difficulty in handling regulations has increased so much even home-bred companies are relocating or expanding research presence abroad

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Cambridge University-affiliated science organization blogger notes "Food Evolution" documentary points out people try to scare consumers away from GMOs, notes best way forward is to publicize GMO success stories

Commentary: German NGO Forum working group on agriculture outlines agroecology policy strategy; elements include challenging claims we need to grow more food, drawing lines to exclude precision and GMO agriculture and making production practices a human rights issue

News: Italian news agency reports on Coldiretti's reiteration of stance against GMOs, following Inf'OGM analysis, noting 76 percent of Italians oppose them, claiming they threaten the environment and "Made in Italy" products

News: German news outlet reports on Berlin-Brandenburg Academy's "Genetic Engineering Report," biochemist Ferdinand Hucho noted "green" genetic modification of plants is still viewed with suspicion, but highlighted excitement about application of CRISPR in humans

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina agricultural news site reports Bt corn effectively reduces carcinogenic microtoxins,

reduces pesticide use, reduces losses due to insect attacks

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility (PSGR) New Zealand sends letter to all MPs in opposition to GMOs, warns about risks posed by GMOs and products of gene editing, as well as associated pesticides, advocates precautionary principle

Commentary: Commentator on New Zealand news site says country has most antiquated, restrictive biotech laws in world to block GMO use because commission listened to uninformed populous rather than informed experts

News: Australian grain industry news site reports on likelihood that South Australia's GMO ban will be extended through 2025, Wade Dabinett of Grain Producers SA notes the move would be an "unmitigated disaster" for the grain industry

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology news included two developments out of Australia, where South Australian legislators approved an initial vote to extend the region's GMO moratorium and Queensland University of Technology researchers announced a successful disease-resistant banana. Mexican media outlets continued to amplify a recent study claiming that most tortillas contain GM maize.

- The *Australian Broadcasting Corp.* reported that South Australia's Upper House has voted to extend a moratorium on GM crop cultivation in the region until 2025, circumventing the ban's 2019 expiration. Mark Parnell, the parliamentary leader for the region's Green Party, called on the government to move the bill forward in the Lower House before the parliamentary session concludes. **See more**
- Researchers with the Queensland University of Technology announced that a field trial of bananas engineered to resist Panama Disease has been successful. The results were published in *Nature Communications*. The news was amplified in Australian, European and food industry-focused news outlets. **See more**
- Organic Consumers Association released a new video amplifying recent research from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, where researchers claimed that more than 90 percent of commercially available tortillas contained GM ingredients. The report was also highlighted in columns published by Diario De Xalapa and Actitud Fem. **See more**.

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North America

News: Politico Pro reports on USDA meeting with industry groups, says that despite production delays the agency is willing to move quickly to allow GE virus that would protect trees from citrus greening

News: Commercial ag funding news site reports former White House nutrition advisor says gene editing is game changer in debate to feed world in light of climate change

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to sign petition to Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to stop Bayer-Monsanto deal, amplifies report by Friends of the Earth, SumOfUs and the Open Markets Institute against the merger

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on why many stakeholders believe GM foods are unsafe, highlights claims by Marian Bassey-Orovwuje of Friends of the Earth Nigeria, who amplified recent study about "super toxins" in Monsanto's corn

News release: Burkina Faso's National Agency for Biosafety (ANB) recaps information and training workshop for members of national biosafety framework, government stakeholders; topics included

experiments with GM mosquitoes, ongoing debates on GMOs

News: Ghanaian news site reports Prof. Kenneth Danso, Director of Biotechnology and Nuclear Agric Research Institute, calls on country's farmers to embrace ag technology and warns against over-reliance on conventional farming methods, adding "we need to adopt" biotechnology

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vogue India reports on gluten debate, "metabolic and functional medicine expert" explains wheat is one of the most genetically-modified grains and heavily sprayed with pesticides, linked to rise in gluten sensitivity

Commentary: The Guam Daily Post columnist discusses research at RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science that developed transgenic strains of rice resistant to drought, notes it may take five to 10 years before product reaches marketplace but praises idea in era of climate change

Interviews: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture interviews Shriram Brothers, Ajay, Vikram and Ajit of holding company DCM Shriram for Financial Express, they express frustration at gov't delays in approving GMOs and handling of IPR

News: The Hindu previews upcoming International Permaculture Conference and Convergence in India from Nov. 25 through Dec. 2, with speakers to include Vandana Shiva, permaculture designer Robyn Francis from Australia

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch news site reports GM banana being developed is resistant to disease threatening to wipe out Cavendish banana crops, notes disease destroyed another banana variety more than 50 years ago

Commentary: Scott Hamilton Kennedy writes for EuropaBio on "Food Evolution" documentary, says he is not pro-GMO but is pro-science, notes documentary shows how difficult it is to decide how to feed the world

News: Food Navigator reports Germany federal risk assessment institute says focus groups reveal public education on genome editing is essential for public discourse on NBTs, noting majority of participants reject the technology, consider it form of genetic modification

Study: EFSA Panel on GMOs reports it finds no new hazards, modified exposure or scientific uncertainties that would change its conclusions on original assessment for herbicide-tolerant, GM sugar beets

News: Italian environmental news site says study by Frick's Research Institute of Organic Agriculture proves organic farming can sustainably feed 9 billion people by 2050

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM says citizens, civil groups must be involved in debate on GMOs, food in general; warns that civil group underrepresented on Estates General of Food, "hidden GMOs" gain ground in France, GMOs are imported into EU, and CETA negotiators seek to undermine rules governing GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Video: Mexico's Organic Consumers Association posts YouTube video amplifying recent investigation that found more than 80 percent of processed foods made from corn and sold in supermarkets contain transgenics; group claims GMOs, glyphosate used on crops threaten human health, food sovereignty

Commentary: Mexican news outlet columnist amplifies recent study which found that over 90 percent of tortillas contain GM maize, voices concern about health effects of glyphosate residues, and GM contamination of native maize varieties

Commentary: Carla Estrada of Mexico's Actitud Fem warns readers about consuming tortillas, pointing to recent study showing that 90 percent of Mexican tortillas contain GM corn, claims they are toxic due to glyphosate residues, recommends eating native corn tortillas

Commentary: Mexican Senator Manuel Bartlett writes for local news outlet, amplifies study on three mega-projects, including GM soy cultivation in Campeche, imposed by gov't without consulting indigenous communities, highlights accusation of abuse of power

News: Mexico's El Norte reports Mayan groups complain 85 percent of soybeans planted in Campeche region genetically modified, despite judge's 2015 order suspending sowing, commercialization of GM soy; Mennonites accused of violating Biosafety Law of GMOs, Greenpeace Mexico among groups filing complaint

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports South Australia's proposal to extend GM ban through 2025 passes Upper House by a single vote, Greens leader Mark Parnell argued extending the ban would benefit state farmers, who fetch premiums for non-GM crops

News: Australian Associated Press reports Queensland University researchers develop GM banana resistant to Panama disease, which is devastating Cavendish crops worldwide

News release: Queensland University of Technology researchers develop GM Cavendish bananas resistant to Fusarium wilt tropical race 4 (TR4), or Panama Disease, three lines showed robust resistance in field trials, while a fourth remained completely TR4 free

Study: Study in Nature Communications demonstrates successful field trials of GM Cavendish bananas resistant to Fusarium wilt tropical race 4, authors note resistance genes could potentially be elevated through gene editing to provide non-transgenic resistance

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 15, 2017
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 9 03:12 PM

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 the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) that called for gene-edited organisms to be regulated under current GMO guidelines. In India, news outlets continues to report on a Monday press event featuring a Swiss organic agroecology researcher.

- The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) issued a legal statement today calling for products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) to be regulated under existing genetic engineering guidance. In its statement, the agency said that a product-focused approach would create significant regulatory gaps and noted the importance of a "precautionary" approach. The opinion is at odds with recommendations from several research agencies, including the European Academies Science Advisory Council. **See more**
- Indian news outlets continued to amplify statements from a Monday event where Swiss agroecology researcher Angelika Hilbeck said that GM seed varieties were not meeting local farmers needs and expectations. Hilbeck highlighted concerns over Bt cotton use in the country, including pest and weed resistance to major GM crop traits. Reporters at the event also raised questions about GM edible oils being imported without labeling. Hilbeck had previously been invited to speak at the Organic World Congress in New Delhi, which concluded on Saturday. **See more**
- Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator released the results from its 2017 survey of consumer attitudes on genetic modification, noting that the results were in line with the results of its 2015 survey. The agency noted that consumers had different tolerances for GM techniques in medicine versus agriculture and were much more positive about gene editing versus traditional genetic modification techniques. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Newsweek reports researchers at University of Hong Kong create world's first tomatoes genetically engineered to contain extra antioxidants; product reportedly contains 500 percent more vitamin E, 100 percent more lycopene than conventional tomatoes

Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says it has received petition from Verdeca LLC seeking determination of non-regulated status for new soybean variety genetically engineered for increased yield; public comment period ending Jan. 16, 2018

News: Reuters reports China's crackdown on GMO soybean imports, anti-smog effort this winter expected to boost soymeal prices, inflate crushers' margins, extend unexpected windfall for oilseeds sector; Beijing delaying safety certificates for cargoes of GMO soybeans, forcing plants to suspend operations

News: Alternative news site Counterview reports on recent speech in Ahmedabad, India by Swiss agroecology expert Angelika Hilbeck, who claimed Monsanto is seeking deal with Bayer for marketing reasons, amplified report on negative impacts of the merger

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya news outlet reports African Centre for Biodiversity says GM cotton market is likely next target for biotech firms, noting mergers will stiffen competition for Monsanto from ChemChina

Commentary: Retired judge writes for Ugandan news outlet, claims legalizing GMOs will erase Ubuntu (humaneness), links GMOs to rising obesity epidemic in the U.S., citing Wikipedia, points to socio-economic consequences and health risks

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on "panic" among Vidarbha and Marathwada cotton growers due to widespread boll worm attack threatening nearly 50 percent of Bt cotton crop, to which the pest has developed resistance, amid recent pesticide poisonings

News: Filipino business news site highlights claims of pesticides negatively impacting human, environmental health, notes International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications report indicating planting biotech crops reduces pesticide use

News: DNA India reports on press conference at Gujarat Vidyapith, where agroecology promoter Angelika Hilbeck called for better enforcement of biosafety regulations, Kapil Shah of organic farming group Jatan blamed gov't for allowing entry of GM edible oil

News: India's Food & Beverage News reports on controversy of GM edible oil imports without proper labeling, amid debate on GM mustard commercialization, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has yet to draft labeling standards

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany Academy of Nature Conservation issues legal opinion arguing EU food and ag law is not suitable to protect nature from NBTs, says new technologies should fall under GMO regulations

Commentary: Keine-Gentechnik amplified BfN opinion calling for new breeding techniques to receive GMO classification, notes ag minister's previous opposition makes it unclear how Germany will decide on issue

Event: Norway Biotechnology Council to present policy recommendations for future regulations of GMO, gene editing (Dec. 5); regional debate meetings to follow

News: Southern France news site reports film festival features documentary presented by anti-pesticide NGO highlighting efforts of chemical industry, lobbyists to monopolize food production, encourage use of pesticides, GM crops despite potential health, environmental hazards

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Member of Argentinian group Hacia El Buen Vivir writes for local news outlet, promotes Encuentros Semilleros movement which supports agroecology and opposes use of GMOs and agrochemicals, pointing to health risks

News: English-language news site amplifies report from Mexican news source about state maintaining GE-free zone despite looming federal order to reverse Yucatan's declaration prohibiting GM crops; ban calls GMOs incompatible with agricultural activity such as beekeeping

More Latin America items

Oceania

Report: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator publishes results of its 2017 survey on consumer attitudes to gene technology, with similar findings to 2015 study, support for GMOs depends on assurance of safety and regulation, and type of modification

News: Australian grain industry news site reports on Office of Gene Technology Regulator survey on public attitudes towards GMOs, with results closely mirroring those of a 2015 study, 13 percent of the population are strongly opposed to GMOs

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces public comment period through Jan. 10, 2018, on proposed commercial release of insect and antibiotic-resistant GM cotton variety by Syngenta, after finding negligible risks

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 14, 2017
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:03:20 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 new criticism of Mexico's biotechnology regulations from local advocacy groups. U.S. advocacy groups held a press event to highlights concerns over agricultural industry consolidation.

- Greenpeace and a collective of Mayan communities groups announced that they'd filed a complaint with the National Service of Health, Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA) over the country's alleged mismanagement of GM soy cultivation in the region. In a statement, Greenpeace claimed that the country's biosecurity system was inadequate. Media outlets amplifying the release highlighted reports that farmers were sowing GM soy varieties despite a court-mandated moratorium. **See more**
- Center for Food Safety, Organization for Competitive Markets, Friends of the Earth, SumOfUs and other advocacy groups held a press event announcing that they had delivered a petition protesting Bayer's pending purchase of Monsanto, noting that a coordinated campaign had generated over 1 million signatures for the petition. The groups warned that the merger would leave over 75 percent of the country's corn seed traits owned by only two agricultural companies. The groups also highlighted two new reports outlining additional concerns over consolidation in the industry. **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: Center for Food Safety promotes National Press Club event where NGOs outlined concerns about agricultural industry mergers, delivered petition protesting consolidation to Department of Justice; highlights its seed exchange platform

News release: Organization for Competitive Markets promotes delivery of one-million-signatory petition calling on DOJ to block Bayer-Monsanto purchase; leaders of NGOs warn merger threatens farmers, consumers by giving companies greater control of food-ag sector

Commentary: Val Giddings comments on FDA GMO education plan urge agency to respond to false fears promoted by special interest groups, give consumers tools to distinguish reliable GMO information from propaganda

Commentary: Consumers Union's Elisa Odabashian submits comments on FDA's educational and outreach initiative on ag biotech, claims there are issues surrounding GMOs in which the science is either unsettled or misrepresented, calls for transparency

Commentary: Quartz previews new apple varieties, including extra-crispy Washington-planted apple, red apple from France and Okanagan's Golden Arctic; says GM apple's success could affect future GM fruits such as wilt-resistant bananas

News: Billings Gazette reports retired Montana State University economist tells Montana Farm Bureau convention attendees farmers are producing more crops per acre thanks to biotechnology

Commentary: Mercola amplifies Indian study finding GM Golden Rice leads to "metabolic breakdown," poor yields in attempt to introduce engineered DNA to India's high-yielding rice variety Swarna, argues using Golden Rice to address vitamin A deficiency in developing countries short-sighted

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management and African Centre for Biodiversity activists celebrate ITPGRFA Kigali establishment of ad hoc technical group to realize farmers rights as step to restore credibility to the Seed Treaty

News: Nigeria Biosafety Management Agency says it has sent back shipment of maize containing illegal GM traits, highlights agency's role in protecting consumers

Announcement: South Africa's National Council of Provinces Committee (NCOP) Land and Mineral Resources publishes minutes of recent meeting, in which mandates on Plant Improvement Bill and Plant Breeders' Rights Bill were negotiated

Announcement: Burkina Faso's National Biosafety Agency (ANB) announces it recently held a communication session on GMOs and Intellectual Property Rights for its staff, moderator Arouna Ouedraogo argued IPR on plant genetic resources warrants further reflection

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on recent speech by Swiss scientist Angelika Hilbeck, in which she claimed that GM crops have only proven productive for educated farmers with large, irrigated land holdings, and have not met promises of reducing pesticide use

News: Press Trust of India reports Maharashtra state task force finds agrarian crisis is worse due to crop losses caused by pests, drought and suspected pesticide poisonings, task force chairman Kishor Tiwari voiced surprise at pink bollworm attack on Bt cotton

More Asia items

Europe

Report: Swiss ag department explains process, history of GMO testing in seed imports, noting only eight positive tests detected in 15 years, announces pilot study launch for control of alfalfa seeds from U.S., Canada

Event: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) to host "Speed Up the Cool Down" networking event Nov. 15, offers opportunity to connect with Regenerative Agriculture movement

Event: Paris NGO to host series of lectures on costs, benefits of new gene editing techniques featuring INRA, High Council of Biotechnologies researchers (Tuesdays, Nov. 14-Dec. 12)

Event: European Food Safety Authority announces Dec. 13 webinar to explain its risk assessment process for GMO allergenicity

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Greenpeace, along with Campeche Mayan communities and other NGOs, lodges complaint with National Service of Health, Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA) about widespread illegal GM soy cultivation, claims Mexico's biosecurity system does not work

News: Mexico's Proceso reports on Mayan communities, environmentalists and human rights activists' presentation of complaint to National Service of Health, Food Safety and Quality (Senasica), alleging that 23,000 hectares of GM soy were planted in Campeche

News: Campeche news outlet reports on complaint filed by Collective of Mayan Communities of the Chenes and NGOs on illegal GM soy cultivation in the state, criticizing Monsanto for acknowledging the black market but not knowing where the seeds came from

News: Mexico's Sipse reports on legal controversy surrounding GM soy cultivation in Yucatan Peninsula, highlights Secretariat of Urban Development and Environment (Seduma) and Ministry of Rural Development's (Seder) promotion of organic soy in the region

More Latin America items

Oceania

Video: Friends of the Earth Australia posts YouTube video with their campaigner, scientists speaking against federal government's proposal to deregulate gene editing, calling it attempt by GM crop industry to get around regulation, warning GMOs could enter food chain, environment, with no safety testing or labeling

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 13, 2017
Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:02:43 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 monitoring featured news of an upcoming Mexican policy decision on GM maize, reports of an anticipated strike in Ecuador in response to the country's GMO seed law, Monsanto's response to the Argentina lawsuit challenging its Intacta soybean patent and amplification of tribunal decision relieving Giorgio Fidenato of charges against his cultivation of GMOs.

- A Mexican news outlet reported a collegiate court will decide in December whether to sustain the provisional precautionary measure that prevents the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Sagarpa) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) from giving new permits for commercial production of GM maize in Mexico. **See more**
- A New York University science journalism news site is reporting that the Ecuador NGO Federation of Peasant Organizations of the Littoral, which has organized regular regional protests since the May government decision to allow research on GM plants, is planning a nationwide strike - possibly as soon as Dec. 20. According to the article, the seed law garnered criticism from supporters and opponents of biotechnology. **See more**
- Monsanto responded to the lawsuit filed by the Mato Grosso Soybeans and Producers Association attempting to nullify the company's Intacta RR2 soybean patent, arguing it has followed the most stringent examination rules and brings unique and beneficial technology to Brazil growers. **See more**
- On Friday, Italian news outlets reported a court in Italy's Pordenone state ordered an end to the case against Giorgio Fidenato over GM maize cultivation following an EU Court of Justice ruling. The decision prompted Fidenato to voice plans to present an "astonishing" request for damages, and the Luca Coscioni Association today used the occasion to reaffirm its appeal to Italy's agriculture minister to end the ban on Bt corn cultivation and open field trials of other green biotechnologies. **See more**
- Tomorrow morning, a coalition of U.S. NGOs will hold an event at the National Press Club to present two reports on the implications of the Bayer-Monsanto merger. Following the event, a petition of more than 1 million signatures opposing the acquisition will be delivered to the Department of Justice. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs piece by popular science author Rebecca Nesbit discussing how GMO camelina could offer sustainable alternative for fish oil, highlighting work at U.K.'s Rothamsted Research to meet needs of fish farming industry using plants, noting positive results from salmon feeding trials

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science profiles Hawaiian papaya farmer Michael Kamiya, highlights his description of how GM technology saved his family's farm, and of his frustrations about the stigma surrounding GM technology

News: Seafood Source reports AquaBounty acknowledges it may never achieve profitability, despite moving GE salmon to market in Canada, admits incurring significant losses; company seeks to raise $20

million from selling stock, proceeding with farm sites in Indiana, Prince Edward Island

Commentary: Strategic Trainings and Expansion's Doug Gurian-Sherman writes guest post for author M. Jahi Chappell's blog, continues series criticizing "Food Evolution" documentary, claims it ignores environmental impact of GMOs and herbicides

Commentary: Simran Sethi writes for Forbes, voices concern about Purdue study finding that consumers see organic and non-GMO labels as synonymous, points to University of Kentucky study showing non-GMO chocolate sells for more than certified fair trade

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides asks supporters to tell Department of Justice, FTC to block Monsanto-Bayer merger, claiming it would lead to increase in pesticide use, impact on environment, power of industry, strains on organic

Campaign: Just Label It asks supporters to send form letter to USDA to urge agency to create consumer-friendly GMO labeling standard, calling for clear GMO labels on packages instead of proposed rules to allow food companies to use electronic disclosures such as QR codes

Commentary: Mark Lynas of Cornell Alliance for Science criticizes Jeffrey Smith's recent "peer-reviewed" paper claiming to demonstrate that a non-GMO diet improves health conditions, amplifies geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam's critique of its methodology

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Zayaan Khan of University of the Western Cape's Food Politics and Cultures Project examines history of maize adoption in South Africa and Mexico, describes GM maize as "the height of corporate control"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports Prime Minister Narendra Modi contributes two Indian rice seed varieties to gene bank of International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, inaugurates "rice field laboratory" named after him at institute, takes part in groundbreaking of new plot for submergence-tolerant rice varieties

News: Filipino news source reports farmer-led NGO MASIPAG warns against PhilRice's renewed push for open field and feed tests of Golden Rice, with more than 100 farmers demonstrating in front of PRRI's gate to protest developments; farmers say they believe Syngenta, Monsanto behind new push

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Detlef Bartsch writes editorial for Journal of Consumer Protection and Food Safety, examines ways in which precautionary principle inhibits innovation, highlights debate on gene editing, blames NGOs for delay in use of beneficial technologies

Event: Inf'OGM to host event commemorating 20 years of citizen mobilization against GMOs in Montreuil (Nov. 23, 2017), speakers will include representatives from Inf'OGM, Volunteer Reapers and the Greens

Commentary: Italy's Associazione Luca Coscioni announces Pordenone Tribunal's decision to end criminal case against its member, Giorgio Fidenato, following EU Court of Justice ruling in his favor on GMOs, renews call on Minister Martina to lift ban on Bt corn

Commentary: University of Vienna's Monika Muhlbock and Heidelberg University's Jale Tosun write for London School of Economics blog, explaining their research on EU member states' failure to reach consensus on GMOs, examining comitology process

News: Armenian news source reports head of NGO charges lobbying by Monsanto prevented adoption of bill on "biosafety of GMOs," alleges government cooperated with agribusiness giant, also notes Monsanto has sold products in Armenia since 2006, but most Armenians unaware of its activities there

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports First Collegiate Court in Civil Matters of the First Circuit will issue decision on whether or not to uphold precautionary measure prohibiting gov't from issuing new permits for commercial sowing of GM maize in Dec. 2017

News: NYU's ScienceLine reports on Ecuadorian scientists' concerns about changes to seed law, some worry lack of guidelines on use of GM technology could lead to accidental ecosystem contamination, others are frustrated that research must remain in the lab

Commentary: Paulina Rivero Weber of Mexico's Milenio amplifies recent debate on GMOs in latest issue of Gaceta UNAM, calls for continuation of the debate and evaluation of GMOs on a case-by-case basis to ensure protection of the environment

News: Brazilian news outlet reports Monsanto reaffirms validity of patent on its Intacta RR2 Pro GM soybean variety, following lawsuit brought by Mato Grosso Soybean and Mushroom Producers Association (Aprosoja), highlighting economic and environmental benefits

News: Peruvian news source reports on meeting of young farmers organized by Slow Food team to discuss sustainable food systems, topics including biotechnology and transgenic, as well as climate change and traditional technologies

Study: Study in Brazilian journal Science & Collective Health links GM crop use since 2003 to increased pesticide use, leading to possible increase in human and environmental exposures and associated negative impacts

News: Chihuahua news outlet reports on new book by beauty pageant contestant Catalina Bustillos CÃirdenas, highlights her goal of educating women about dangers of GMOs, which she began investigating after a loved one was diagnosed with cancer

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source explains dicamba controversy in U.S., emphasizes development of dicamba-tolerant crops was response to glyphosate-resistant weeds, notes "devastating effects" on non-GMO crops

News release: GE Free New Zealand announces independent scientists are calling for regulation of second generation GE techniques such as CRISPR, amplifying letter from Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility on unintended effects of gene editing

News: Australia's Weekly Times examines similarities between Australian and Canadian Agriculture, one difference is Canada's early adoption of GM crops, Canadian Canola Growers Association president Jack Froese highlights improved sustainability

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and

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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 13, 2017
Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 4:09:26 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

After months of criticism about its assessment of glyphosate, the International Agency for Research on Cancer revealed last week that it is looking for a new leader. This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features David Zaruk's "wish list" for whoever replaces Christopher Wild, including the retraction of the assessment claiming glyphosate could cause cancer. The subject is also discussed in a piece by Yale neurologist Steven Novella, who explains that the IARC assessment is an outlier among all other evaluations.

There's also a closer look at Stephanie Seneff's research claiming pesticides are linked to autism, a respones to the U.K.'s decision to support a ban of neonics and an appeal to participate in a comment period on U.S. biotechnology regulations.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you still need 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: Stephanie Seneff

Discredited researcher Stephanie Seneff, whose work includes claims that exposure to GMOs and glyphosate will cause 100 percent of the population to develop autism, is an icon whose work is heralded by organic

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Even junk scientists consider Stephanie Seneff unqualified to assess pesticides and GMOs

David Zaruk: Next leader of IARC should end monograph program, retract glyphosate assessment

Vivian Fernandes: Agriculture minister's claims that touching Bt cotton causes impotency are false

Dr. Steven Novella: "Best and largest set of data" show glyphosate does not cause cancer; IARC is an outlier

Matt Ridley: U.K. decision to support neonic ban based on "threadbare" evidence, will harm insects

Kevin Folta: Canadian broadcaster spreading fake news about glyphosate based on debunked claims from Thierry Vrain

Angela Logomasini: New York Times and Washington Post descriptions of chlorpyrifos are "off-the-charts absurd"

Karl Haro von Mogel: Submit comments to influence U.S. FDA biotech policy before Friday deadline

marketers and anti-GMO activists.

In the news this week, however, Seneff is facing criticism from inside her movement for pushing dangerous false claims.

Learn more about Seneff HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jeff Stier: Environmental and chemical policy should be based on vigorous debate, not personal attacks

Michelle Miller: Soil health expert spreading misinformation about GMOs perpetuated by the organic food industry

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What's Trending?

U.K. environment secretary announces support for EU neonic ban; Bayer questions decision as "bizarre" and anti-science

Farm groups warn about consequences of glyphosate ban as European reauthorization debate appears headed to appeal committee

MASIPAG launches new campaign against Golden Rice with demonstration in front of Philippines Rice Research Institute

Canadian universities publish study concluding that imidacloprid and chlorpyrifos consumption interferes with migration of sparrows

Calendar highlights

November 14	November 14	November 15
U.S. NGO coalition panel on impacts of agribusiness mega-mergers	U.K. House of Commons debate on bee population	USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services annual meeting
November 16	**November 16**	**November 17-21**
French Society of Genetics CRISPR conference	EDC debate featuring Generations Futures (Chinon, France)	North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations
November 20	**November 20**	**November 22**
Royal Society of Medicine workshop: "Pesticides and food: is low dose exposure harmful?"	Chemical Heritage Foundation hosts brown bag lecture: "Atrazine in Corn Production"	India court hearing on genetically modified mustard

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 9, 2017
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 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

Today's monitoring featured opposition to a Philippine Rice Research Institute application to test Golden Rice, new developments in the GMO discussion in Armenia, anti-Bt cotton comments from an Indian ag minister and a new lawsuit filed by Brazilian farmers against Monsanto.

- MASIPAG issued a news release announcing its campaign against PhilRice for its renewed push to feed and field test Golden Rice. The group organized a demonstration in front of the rice research institute and called on the Department of Agriculture to deny the application for the testing. MASIPAG claims Syngenta and the biotech industry are the force behind the PhilRice initiative. **See more**
- The biotech discussion continues in Armenia. Today, the head of the country's State Service for Food Safety told reporters the volume of GM seeds from Monsanto that are imported into the country does not exceed 1 percent, adding he would not like to use GM seeds. Armenian Minister of Agriculture Ignaty Arakelyan also spoke with reporters, alerting them that the ministry is working with the Ministry of Nature Protection to examine the risks of GMOs and affirming the country is not currently working with Monsanto. He added that the ministry would release information as soon as the investigation concludes. **See more**
- According to a report from the *Indo-Asian News Service*, the agriculture minister for India's Rajasthan state told reporters covering a Udaipur agri-tech conference that the mere touch of Bt cotton causes impotency, claiming the Bt gene comes from soil bacterium found in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after atomic bombs were dropped. In addition to the criticism of Bt cotton, the minister also pledged to prevent any trials of GM mustard in his province, the biggest producer of mustard in India (**see more**). Ag-biotech discussion is likely to continue, if not increase, in India into next week. *The Hindu* reported Bill Gates will attend a Nov. 15-17 agriculture "hackathon" conference scheduled in Visakhapatnam, India. (**see more**).
- Soybean growers in Brazil's Mato Grosso state are asking a court to cancel Monsanto's Intacta patent, claiming irregularities and accusing the company of failing to prove it brings de facto technological innovation. *Reuters*, *Russia Today* and a few Brazil-based new sources are covering the suit. **See more**

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North America

Report: Green America report categorizes food labels and purports to separate fact from fiction on what to know about food labels

News: Reuters Special Report claims review of regulatory records, interviews with crop scientists shows Monsanto was repeatedly warned of the dangers of releasing a dicamba-resistant seed without an accompanying herbicide designed to reduce drift; farmers explain why they used product when not legal to yet

Study: Study in PLOS ONE finds golden potatoes have potential to contribute to daily requirements of vitamin A and vitamin E for children and women of childbearing age in developing countries

News: Huffington Post reports The New York Times is launching a monthly section for kids; cover story

for first section on Nov. 19 will focus on CRISPR, the "gene editing technique that is arguably the biggest scientific discovery in a century"

News: Missouri-based ag news radio service interviews Purdue University horticulture professor who says apple industry cautiously watching how consumers react to GM Arctic Apples being released in select U.S. grocery stores, observes many growers waiting to see if product accepted in marketplace before deciding to grow GM apples

Commentary: Alliance for Natural Health - USA urges readers to write congressional members urging them to approve strict regulation on gene-edited food; notes 80 Congress members wrote regulatory agencies telling them to adopt framework that "fosters innovation" and to "remove burdens" from industry

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports agency advises producers to seek authorization, clarification before attempting to import GMOs; agency must approve GM food and GM seed before it is allowed into the country

News: Nigerian science news source reports ag minister endorses Bt cotton project, stakeholders preparing for eventual release of Bollgard II cotton to farmers; product undergoing last stage of field trials in Nigeria's cotton-growing zones, will be commercialized in 2018

Commentary: Member of Nigerian group, Golden Crown Farmers Co-Operative writes for local news outlet, claims pesticides and GMOs in food are poisons that lead to disease and early death, amplifies article by Jibrin Ibrahim of Center for Democracy and Development making similar claims

More Africa items

Asia

News release: MASIPAG announces mobilization in front of PhilRice offices to protest the agency's applied to field and feeding tests for Golden Rice "despite years of vehement public opposition;" says farmers believe Monsanto, Syngenta back the project, claim not enough data to show the product is safe

News: Armenian news site reports country's agriculture minister tells reporters Monsanto's activities in Armenia are being investigated, saying "we must deal with risks not only for agriculture, but overall risks"

Commentary: Indo-Asian News Service posts piece by editor of Smart Indian Agriculture saying Rajasthan's minister for agriculture told reporters "the mere touch of Bt cotton caused impotency;" minster also asserts "he would make a determined effort to ensure that no trials of GM crops took place in the state"

News: Reuters reports China taking longer to approve GM soy imports; delays could impact feed demand, notes China increased checks on imports to prevent GM soy from entering food sector

News: The Hindu Business Line promotes three-day agricultural "hackathon" to be held in Visakhapatnam, India, from Nov. 15 through 17, with Microsoft founder Bill Gates participating in valedictory function, exhibits of agricultural technologies and products, seven panel discussions on ag-related topics

More Asia items

Europe

Event: French anti-GMO group Inf'OGM promotes roundtable on GMOs in food set for Nov. 25-26 in Paris, with panelists including group's president and Gilles-Eric Seralini, part of 15th edition of Festival of Books and Ecology Press

News release: La Via Campesina responds to COP23 climate meetings, promoting agrocology, peasant farmers and their rights as a solution to climate change, criticizing corporate control of the decision-making process

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies article by Institute for Responsible Technology suggesting health of participants improved after they switched to non-GMO diet or reduced amount of GMO foods eaten, with most participants reporting improvements in digestive problems; article notes possible bias among participants and placebo effect

News: Russia Today reports growers in Brazil's Mato Grosso state have asked a court to cancel Monsanto's Intacta patent, alleging "failure to prove it brings de facto technological innovation"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Mato Grosso soy growers bring suit against Monsanto, ask court to cancel Intacta RR2 because the company fails to establish technological innovation; notes farmers are leading push to replace GM soy with non-GM soy

News: Paraguayan news outlet reports on Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock's (MAG) authorization for commercial release of new GM corn and cotton varieties by Monsanto, both with pest-resistance and herbicide-tolerance

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Landless Workers Movement's (MST) denial of participation of recent protest on farms in Correntina, in spite of signing manifesto encouraging protests, and accusation that Power360 published "fake news" about them

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: University of Queensland reports professor says gene editing is game-changer for food industry, points out some GE food has health benefits; notes public doesn't understand the process, but they don't object to it as much as transgenic foods

More Oceania items

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Subject: Food and agriculture issues resources
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 3:20:31 PM

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Knowledge is Power

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

A library of background information on key players influencing food and agriculture issues - and who's funding them

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Daily tracking of current events, news coverage and activist activities on food and agriculture issues

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Connect with other experts and influencers seeking favorable outcomes and science-based dialogue. Or find an expert in a particular field.

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To: Diane Wray-Cahen@fas usda gov
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 8, 2017
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:02:48 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

Today's biotech monitoring featured new activity in the U.S. and Canadian GM labeling debates, and continued stakeholder commentary against Monsanto and GMOs in Armenia.

- Eleven U.S. senators wrote to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, calling for a ban on electronic GMO labels until broadband internet access and smartphones are "near universal," and all grocery stores provide QR scanners and Wi-Fi. **See more**
- Quebec-based anti-biotech NGO Vigilance OGM submitted a petition signed by 20,000 citizens and 220 organizations to the Quebec government calling for mandatory GM labeling. Coalition Avenir Quebec agriculture spokesperson, Mirabel MP Sylvie D'Amours, and Quebec Solidaire spokesman Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois endorsed the petition, emphasizing the need for transparency in the food system. Vigilance OGM cited concerns about the recent introduction of GE salmon into the region. **See more**
- A Nov. 1 U.S. Embassy of Armenia conference on agriculture featuring presentations by Monsanto continues to drum up anti-GMO advocacy. Last week on Facebook, the Armenia-American musician Serj Tankian urged the country to "stay clear of Monsanto," warning the company's chemicals are harmful to the environment. The local March Against Monsanto chapter then sent a letter asking the prime minister and U.S. ambassador to oppose a plan allowing Monsanto to do business in the country, citing opposition to GMOs. Today, the Armenia Tree Project issued a statement urging Armenia to invoke the precautionary principle when considering permitting Monsanto and GM seeds in the country, warning they threaten biodiversity and food sovereignty. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Campaign: Eleven U.S. senators write to Ag Secretary Perdue, making recommendations for electronic disclosures of GM ingredients in food, they call for clear, on-package labels until broadband internet access and smartphones are "near universal"

News release: USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announces competitive opportunity "to conduct research on the environmental effects of genetically engineered (GE) organisms, including plants, animals, insects, and microorganisms"; $3.5 million in grants available for the research

News release: Canada's Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) Agriculture spokesperson, Mirabel MP Sylvie D'Amours, reiterates support for mandatory GMO labeling, following recent petition by Vigilance OGM signed by over 20,000 Quebec citizens supporting labels

Video: The Doctors guests, including widow whose husband died allegedly from Roundup exposure and Jeffrey Smith of The Institute for Responsible Technology, discuss link between glyphosate, cancer

News: Natural News amplifies report from Independent Science News suggesting Indian researchers found genes necessary to produce Golden Rice cause unintended side effects, claim that introducing the GE DNA stunted high-yielding Indian rice variety, delayed flowering and root growth, decreased crop yields

Interview: Cornell Alliance for Science director Sarah Evanega interviews University of Southern California environmentalist Jennifer Bernstein, she argues "lifestyle environmentalism" negatively impacts women in developing nations, highlights need for access to GM crops

Interview: Acres USA interviews Johnathan Latham of Bioscience Resource Project, he describes his disillusionment with biotech, claiming most research is for patented products, criticizes ISAAA and Cornell Alliance for Science as being "malevolent organizations"

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on opposition to Plant Breeders Bill by Food Sovereignty Ghana, and by former Convention People's Party chair Samia Nkrumah, who claimed there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, promoted organic ag

Commentary: African Agricultural Technology Foundation reports Ugandan minister of science, technology and innovation says at conference that passage of biosafety bill by parliament would help nation develop economy, improve food security; only Sudan and South Africa now growing transgenic crops among Sub-Saharan African nations

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports farmers, farm aid groups report heavy damage from pink bollworm in Yavatmal and Amravati districts despite use of Bt cotton

News: Times of India reports on discovery of illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant GM soybeans in Gujarat, Kavitha Kuruganti of Coalition for GM Free India accused regulators of being caught sleeping, called for immediate action to fix the liability on them

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) announces launch of public website on biotech, highlights RIVM's monitoring of opportunities for new biotech applications and aspects of health and safety

Commentary: U.K. news site amplifies Guardian claims following Brexit vote of decision to leave EU leading to policies negatively impacting environment, such as potential lifting of neonic ban, suggests Guardian concerns unwarranted, stating Brexit allows U.K. to take pro-environment stance, including approval of GM crops

Commentary: Anti-GM French NGO Inf'OGM reports on dossier of new genetic modification techniques before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), says CJEU expected to make decision first half of 2018

Interview: Italian news outlet interviews Polytechnic University of Marche professor Bruno Mezzetti, he explains importance of agricultural research to meet future challenges, notes all forms of ag use pesticides, describes his current biotech research projects

News: Reuters reports European Commission resumes antitrust review of Bayer's planned takeover of Monsanto after companies given time to provide more information; commission sets new deadline of March 5, 2018, to make decision on proposed deal

More Europe items

Latin America

News: La Jornada reports UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples will meet with representatives in Mexico Nov. 8 to 17 to learn about problems affecting their communities; planting of transgenics in Yucatan among targeted issues

Commentary: Member of Brazil's Small Farmers Movement (MPA) looks at world food industry strategy "based on the triangle of organic food for the rich, transgenics and pesticides for the poor and hunger for the miserable"; concludes food sovereignty, agrarian reform and agroecology are "practical starting point for a new path of development"

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on recent statement by leader of Mayan village of Hopelchen, Campeche, Aracely Pech, noting cultivated area of GM soy has doubled in spite of Supreme Court's prohibition, argues court-ordered consultations have not been carried out

News: Brazilian news outlet investigates research indicating that new GM sugarcane could lead to spike in cancer rates, highlights negative health effects of herbicides, includes interview with CTNBio President Edivado Domingues Velini

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Op-ed in New Zealand news site by chairwoman of GE Free Northland argues for right of regions to create enforceable GE-free zones, critiques former central government's "push for risky outdoor GE experiments and releases"

Campaign: Australian NGO MADGE urges supporters to take action to support regulating new breeding techniques as GMOs, claiming new techniques are just as hazardous and unpredictable

News: New Zealand's Farmers Weekly reports Federated Farmers drop fight against regional council's policy of precautionary approach to release of GMOs into environment after appeals court opinion says NGO would lose in court; chair of GE-Free Northland notes courts twice upheld right of regions to create enforceable GE-free zones

News: Australian newspaper reports scientists question why genetic modification unpopular with public, point out it saved Australia's cotton industry, could help make farming more sustainable, lower cost of production, also note about 40 percent of nation's canola crop GM, German study found GM crops could reduce pesticide use

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 7, 2017
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 9:35:37 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 biotech monitoring featured industry and stakeholder response to the USDA withdrawal of its proposed biotech policy revisions, heavy coverage of the U.S. release of Arctic apples, NGO campaigning against illegal GM soy cultivation in India and a newly published journal article from Jeffrey Smith.

- U.S. agriculture industry groups endorsed USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's decision to withdraw proposed revisions to regulations governing ag biotech. A statement from BIO supported the agency's course correction as an appropriate next step in considering improvements to its regulatory system. The National Association of Wheat Growers also applauded the decision, arguing regulatory requirements must be transparent and open to stakeholder engagement. Conversely, the Center for Food Safety voiced its disappointment, accusing the USDA and the Trump administration of doing the bidding for "Big Ag lobbyists." **See more**
- The release of Okanagan Specialty Fruits' Arctic Apple in U.S. supermarkets received noticeable attention from international news outlets. *Nature* published a feature looking back on the road leading up to the apple's release and how its sets the stage for GM products to follow. Organic Consumers Association argued the lack of clear GMO labels makes the apples hard to find, and it launched a scavenger hunt running through Dec. 1 for supporters to help locate stores selling GM apples. **See more**
- One of India's farmer organizations lodged a complaint with the Gujarat government and the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee claiming GM soy has been illegally cultivated in the Aravalli district. Responding, the Coalition for a GM-Free India is calling for urgent action against regulators and seed suppliers, and it claims the release of illegal GM seeds is part of biotech industry strategy. **See more**
- The International College of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine today published a survey by Jeffrey Smith finding health improvements in individuals who reduced or stopped consumption of genetically modified foods. Smith tested people within the network of supporters of his NGO, the Institute for Responsible Technology, which speaks out about the health dangers of GMOs. An article in GMWatch promotes the findings but notes that as supporters of Smith, participants may have experienced improved health under the placebo effect. Smith promoted the study on the website for the Institute for Responsible Technology and alerted the NGO's email followers. He is set to appear on the television program "The Doctors" on Wednesday. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Study: International College of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine publishes survey by Jeffrey Smith finding improvements in respondents' health systems upon reduced consumption of GM foods

News release: Whole Foods Market's "Newsroom" posts news release about retailer's top 10 food trends for 2018, including more transparency in labeling, promises labels on all items in its stores will provide GMO transparency by September 2018

Campaign: Quebec anti-GMO NGO submits new petition with more than 20,000 signatures calling for mandatory labeling of GMOs by provincial government, claims petition also supported by more than 200 groups, farms and businesses that want more transparency in food system, cites approval of unlabeled

GM salmon in Canada

News release: Pipeline Foods LLC of Minneapolis, first U.S.-based supply chain solutions company focused exclusively on non-GMO and organic food and feed, announces it will open regional office in St. Louis, expand Malden Specialty Soy processing facility in southeastern Missouri

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project editor discusses USDA's announcement it's withdrawing proposed rule to revise agency's regulations of GE crops, notes biotech advocates had viewed approach as "unscientific," expressed concern it could hinder research and development of crops modified with CRISPR

Commentary: Ag Daily runs column by "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller calling for common ground in debate over ag issues, noting speaker on water quality in Iowa spreads misinformation about GMOs, warning myths about GMOs perpetuated by organic food companies, "Non-GMO" branded labels

News: AgriNews reports "Food Evolution" documentary having success in changing viewers' opinions about GMOs; filmmaker Scott Hamilton Kennedy says he has attended 25 screenings of film, with 80 percent to 90 percent of audience members indicating afterward it had eased their concerns about safety of GMOs

Commentary: Bloomberg View columnist Noah Smith examines ways of thinking about new technology, calling for good technology management to assess potential benefits and dangers, points to emerging technologies such as GE and artificial intelligence

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news service reports Rajasthan Agriculture Minister says GM crops are not needed to increase farmers' income, adding the state government had already achieved this through innovations in traditional farming and by encouraging cash crops

News: Indian news outlet reports on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh affiliate Bharatiya Kisan Sangh's (BKS) accusations that Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) collaborated with multinationals to secretly allow GM crops in the country

News release: Indonesia's Universitas Gadjah Mada recaps Plant Genetic Engineering workshop held to disseminate results of research, particularly genetic engineering for plant breeding using CRISPR/Cas9, with researchers saying they have produced plants with quick bloom, resistance to disease

News release: Environmental groups call on government of Davao City, Philippines to fast track declaration of Barangay Sibulan in Toril District as an organic agriculture zone free of pesticides and GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

News: Science reports GM Arctic apples to be on U.S. grocery store shelves in November, quotes experts saying that if product succeeds with consumers, new wave of GE and lab-grown foods could follow, also quotes Center for Food Safety analyst complaining about Arctic apple's lack of GMO labeling, use of QR codes instead

News release: NGOs No - REDD Africa, NoVox Togo and GRAIN issue statement against "false solutions" to climate change being presented at COP23, they claim industrial agriculture destroys biodiversity and

exacerbates the problem, promote agroecology

News: The Telegraph, other U.K. news sources report U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross says Britain shouldn't let EU dictate terms of Brexit if it wants speedy free trade agreement with United States; Ross says there would be problems if United Kingdom retained current EU bans on chlorinated chicken, GM food

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Paraguayan news site reports Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (Inbio) says GM corn had 49 percent greater yield compared to conventional corn in 2016/17; Inbio manager points out environmental benefits of biotech crops, helping to maintain more arable land without agricultural activity

Commentary: Op-ed by agricultural engineer in Bolivian newspaper highlights "great potential" for agricultural export products to change country's economic dependence on mining and hydrocarbons, but cautions Bolivia continues to be ambiguous on biotechnology, while encouraging "populist demagoguery of misunderstood organic agriculture"

News release: Brazil's Regional Council of Engineering and Agronomy of Goias (CREA-GO) recaps workshop held with Embrapa on "Transgenics and Integrated Pest Management," aimed at disseminating technologies of IPM and transgenic in agriculture; one speaker notes Brazil world's largest producer of transgenic crops

News: Mexican news site reports Campeche district judge issued two agreements that favor Monsanto in Yucatan GM soy court case; agreements limit number of communities consulted and time frame to complete first stage of consultations; judge's decision appealed

News: Mexican news site reports on study published last September by two universities showing 82 percent of corn products available in country's supermarkets contain GMOs, adding consumers unaware because of lack of GM labeling laws; GM labeling bill in Congress frozen and "ignored to date"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: AusBiotech welcomes interim outcome of 2016 Technical Review of the Gene Technology Regulations, and its guidance for regulating new breeding technologies and gene drives, highlights its submissions regarding such regulations

Commentary: Op-ed by New Zealand Federated Farmers president says Federation "remains strongly of the view," despite withdrawing related legal appeals, that central government's Environmental Protection Agency is best placed to assess science and safety of GMOs in Northland region, adding "There is an overwhelming case for the economic, health or environmental benefits of GMOs"

News: New Zealand news site reports GE-Free Northland has successfully defended right of local authorities to manage outdoor GMOs in region following withdrawal of two legal appeals by Federated Farmers of NZ

News: Radio New Zealand reports U.S. GMO-free marketer Gary Hirshberg helping push NZ to "cash in" on growing market with unified national organic standards

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder Events Bonus Eventus

database	calendar	community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 6, 2017
Date: Monday, November 6, 2017 9:01:50 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that the U.S. Department of Agriculture was withdrawing proposed changes to biotechnology regulations. In Europe, the launch of a United Nations climate conference prompted activist promotion of alternative agricultural models. U.S. science communicators released a new documentary countering "fear-based" parenting messages.

- U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that the agency would be withdrawing proposals for streamlining biotechnology regulations across USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. He added that the agency would "re-engage" with stakeholders and highlighted the need for flexible regulations that support innovation. **See more**
- Advocacy groups and media outlets, responding to the start of a climate change conference in Bonn, Germany, discussed the role of agriculture in climate change. The European wing of La Via Campesina issued a statement on the earlier "People's Climate Conference" and highlighted the need for peasant agroecology in meeting climate needs. Civil Eats, in launching a week of articles on the issue, highlighted author David Montgomery's recommendation for soil-regenerative agriculture. **See more**
- Science communicators announced the release of the crowdfunded "Science Moms" documentary, highlighting the importance of countering fear-based marketing targeting mothers. Writing in *Forbes*, Kavin Senapathy quoted the film's director on the effort to promote "fact-based parenting." The video is available for download at the movie's website. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: USDA announces withdrawal of proposed rule to revise biotechnology regulations and will re-engage stakeholders to determine "science-based approach" for regulating biotechnology products; USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue called for regulations that "foster public confidence and protect American agriculture"

News: Politico reports USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announces withdrawal of Obama-era proposal to streamline biotech reviews; Perdue calls for "efficient and transparent review process that doesn't restrict innovation"

Commentary: John J. Cohrssen and Henry I. Miller write for The Hill, pointing out flaws in FDA's approach to GE animals, criticizing unreasonable delays in approvals of GE salmon and mosquitoes

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, promoting "Science Moms" documentary, in which she is featured, highlighting goal of shifting parenting narrative away from fear on issues like GMOs and vaccines, and towards science

Commentary: Op-ed in The New York Times by Indiana University pediatrics professor says closer look at research behind food fears shows "many of our most demonized foods are actually fine for us"; cites

GMOs as perhaps best example of failing to "think critically about science"

News release: Whole Foods Market announces forecast for top food trends in 2018, including transparency, asserts labels on all products in its store will be transparent about any GMO ingredients by September 2018, also notes use of science to manipulate plant-based products, such as "bleeding" vegan burgers

Campaign: Green America's GMO Inside calls on supporters to submit comments to FDA in opposition of use of taxypayer money to fund Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, points to negative impact of GMOs on humans and environment

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet posts commentary from NGO director describing Ag Minister Chief Audu Ogbe's recent visit to a Bt Cotton Multi-locational Field Trial (MFT) farm, where he endorsed use of safe biotech in the country, noting "there is no substitute to scientific research"

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Syngenta announces it enters binding agreement to acquire Nidera Seeds from COFCO International, with completion of transaction subject to clearance by relevant merger-control authorities

News: Vietnamese news site reports more than 34 percent of 323 samples of rice, tubers and fruits at supermarkets in Ho Chi Minh City contained GMOs; survey also shows most animal feed samples also contained GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

News release: La Via Campesina announces People's Climate Summit in Bonn, Germany; NGO calls on peasant agroecology to "feed the world and cool the planet"

Commentary: GMWatch highlights University of Nottingham report studying NGO skepticism about gene editing technology, says report refutes claims NGO opposition "emotional or dogmatic" but instead is based on skepticism of "inflated claims being made for the technology"

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by Estonian professor of molecular plant biology about recent EU high-level conference on "Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture," in which author warns much time was spent discussing scientifically unproven myths about GM plants and NBTs

News: Ouest-France reports 70 people demonstrate in front of Quimper police station in support of "volunteer GMO mower" who wants a trial for her part in blocking cooperative accused of incorporating GM soy from South America into manufacture of its livestock feed

Event: French groups Biocoop Mantois, Biocoopans and Attac 78 North to organize screening of investigative report "Bientôt dans vos assiettes de gré ou de force" as part of Alimenterre Festival (Nov. 30, 2017), followed by discussion with anti-GMO Volunteer Reapers

Event: Slow Food Val Nervia and Otto Luoghi to host four nights of public interest, two this month (Nov. 9 and 23) and two in January, Nov. 9 event will feature screening of documentary "OGM l'invasione transgenica"

News: French news outlet reports on release of GM non-browning Arctic apples in U.S. market, highlights developer Neal Carter's hope that the service provided by the non-browning trait will help

overcome consumer resistance to GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (Imco) report on advantages of planting GM corn, highlighting argument that biotech is the best alternative for boosting Mexico's corn productivity in small and large operations

News: Argentina's El Pais reports on benefits of high-tech ag techniques for the country's soybean production, highlights its beginning with Direct Sowing systems in conjunction with Roundup Ready soybeans, and new developments such as drought tolerance

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Monsanto plant research and development global leader, John Purcell's assessment that consumers are demanding a new food experience with on distinct taste and convenience, he highlights Monsanto's efforts to reduce food waste

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 6, 2017
Date: Monday, November 6, 2017 4:03:53 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A U.S. Congressional committee last week sent letters to the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the Department of Health and Human Services to demand a response by Wednesday (Nov. 8) in its investigation into "troubling evidence of data deletion, manipulation, and potential conflicts of interest" in the agency's review of glyphosate. The controversial, frequently questioned ruling that glyphosate could cause cancer is explored in this week's newsletter by Hank Campbell, Robert Arnason and Ronald Bailey.

Other pieces focus on potential solutions to food security and malnutrition presented by various biotechnology applications, plus a critique of misleading non-GMO labeling.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you still need 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: African Centre for Biodiversity

The African Center for Biodiversity (formerly the Africa Centre for Biosafety) is a coordinating point for anti-GMO U.S. and EU advocacy groups' influence in Africa.

Receiving training,

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Conflicts of interest on glyphosate review could cause U.S. Congress to pull IARC funding

Lila Abassi: Study claiming link between pesticides and reduced pregnancies in women undergoing fertility treatments "unreliable"

Robert Arnason: Repetition made falsehoods that "glyphosate probably causes cancer" and neonics are "bee-killing pesticides" seem true

Ronald Bailey: Deceptive "science," conflicts of interests at play in effort to ban glyphosate

Amanda Zaluckyj: Non-GMO labeling vilifies good food while harming low-income consumers and the environment

Science 2.0: Genetically modified wheat can help fight food insecurity by boosting flour production

Ousmane Badiane and Joachim von Braun: Lessons for ending hunger in Africa

Arjen van Tunen: European opposition to gene editing will hinder innovation and development of better crops

Julie Mollins: CRISPR technology could reduce pesticide use, boost

collaboration and funding from groups including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Center for Food Safety, ACB is fighting the enactment of biosafety legislation, promoting lawsuits and organizing local political opposition to GMOs and pesticides across the continent.

Learn more about ACB HERE.

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nutrition and help address food security

Joan Conrow: Aflatoxin-resistant peanut solves issue that drives food waste; field trials planned in India

KNOW GMO video: Genetic engineering is most direct path to solving banana wilt in Uganda

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What's Trending?

Vote possible Thursday on European glyphosate renewal

Nigerian lawmakers probe import of unapproved GM maize as activist groups file lawsuit to block adoption of GM technology

Task Force on Systemic Pesticides publishes first paper in update to research vilitying neonics and fipronil

Indian state seeks investigation of whether unauthorized Bt cotton is linked to farmer deaths

Calendar highlights

November 6 - December 14	November 7-8	November 7
Australia Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme - Phase 2	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University conference - "Bioethics and the Environment - Opens the CETA Gate for GMOs"	Society for Endocrinology annual general meeting
November 7	November 8-9	November 9-11
Presentation of the Findings of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (Qatar)	International Conference on Genetic and Protein Engineering	Organic World Congress (New Delhi, India)
November 9-10	November 13-14	November 13
International Congress on Synthetic Biology and Genetic Engineering	World Congress on Biotechnology (Osaka, Japan)	Tyrone Hayes lecture at Brandeis University

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Date: Sunday, November 5, 2017 9:01:51 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 French High Council on Biotechnology releasing its opinion on new breeding techniques and the Swiss Federal Council announcing its new agricultural strategy. Reporting continued on the Indian state of Maharashtra's investigation into sales of illegal Bt cotton.

- The French High Council of Biotechnology recommended evaluation of gene-edited products and potential risks on a case-by-case basis. **See more**
- The Swiss Federal Council's new agricultural strategy addresses progress made in biotechnology. The strategy would create a framework to strengthen agricultural markets, farmers' personal responsibility and increase commercial competitiveness. A public comment period will run through January. **See more**
- Indian news sites reported the Maharashtra government will ask the Central Bureau of Investigation to look into whether the illegal sale of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seeds is connected to the pesticide poisoning deaths of farmers in the area. **See more**

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North America

News: Bloomberg reports first commercial harvest of GM Arctic golden delicious apples will be sold in 400 stores across the Midwest, Washington State University horticulturist Jim McFerson noted some regional growers worry about damage to apples' positive image

Commentary: The Western Producer runs op-ed by ag journalist warning anti-science activism puts long-term profitability of farming at risk, pointing to Europe's potential glyphosate ban and "onslaught" of public opinion against GM crops, adding public may not accept new technologies, such as gene editing

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association updates "organic transitions" initiative lobbying efforts to survive the "approaching storm" beyond farming to include transportation, health, housing and education

Commentary: Writing for Genetic Literacy Project, Farm Babe refutes anti-GMO activist claims that ag company seed policies prevent farmers from saving seeds, arguing saving seeds is expensive, time consuming and doesn't provide ROI

Commentary: University of Florida's Kevin Folta notes organic industry-funded USRTK received 2,000 pages of his emails, says he is preparing for another smear campaign on supposed "collusion" with "Big Ag"

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science promotes discovery of GM process to suppress aflatoxin-producing fungus as breakthrough that will improve health of population reliant on nut-based proteins; ICRISAT scientist says transgenics is only way to address fungus

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Science writer notes AFSA activist group's disinformation campaign is effective in preventing South African from adopting new GM crops despite demonstrated benefits in boosting yields, resisting disease

News: Ghana news site reports CSIR director calls for immediate passage of Plant Breeders Bill, notes Parliament put bill on hold after Food Sovereignty Ghana said bill meant imminent release of GMOs into food market

News: Nigerian news site reports 17 NGOs file lawsuit to prevent GMO adoption, also requests revocation of NABDA's approval of GM crop field trials; seed company director says agribusinesses target Africa to gain bigger market slice

News: Rwanda news outlet reports ag minister, director of ag-enviro commission warn against permitting GMOs in the country, warning it could pollute food

News: Intellectual Property Watch reports Uganda Parliament passes National Biosafety Bill 2017, intended to enhance development of modern biotechnology, allows farmers and plant breeders to access GM plant materials, other tools of genetic engineering; letter from opponents warns bill would allow "unfettered" introduction of GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports on recent farm sector-related talks between India and the U.S., which avoided contentious issues such as tariffs, subsidies and intellectual property rights, but USDA Under Secretary McKinney did emphasize importance of mutual respect for IPR

News: Indian news site reports herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton responsible for pesticide-related farmer deaths, notes Monsanto developed the technology; biotech group notes most of the illegal sales are spurious and do not have Bt traits, necessitating the heavy pesticide spraying; Monsanto notes it kept government apprised of black market sales of Bt cotton

News: Indian news site reports Central Institute of Cotton Research study shows unapproved, herbicide-tolerant genes found in companies' Bt cotton seed, Maharashtra calls for Central Bureau of Investigation probe

More Asia items

Europe

News: EU Parliament announces it passed two resolutions requesting the EU Commission to block GM corn and GM cotton imports into the EU, expresses concern regarding herbicide residues in products

Study: PLOS ONE study examines reasons behind lack of resistance development to Bt maize in Spain over past 16 years, authors attribute delay in resistance evolution to low initial adoption rates and EU policy decision to replace Event 176 with MON 810 Bt maize

Video: Int'l Seed Federation VP tells European Seed that public should weigh benefits vs risks of NBTs in policy decision-making, arguing NBTs carry no more risk than conventional techniques

Interview: Italian environmental news site questions university researcher, who says gene editing techniques are unpredictable, therefore risk assessment is impossible, and the techniques cannot solve issues such as drought

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Europe promotes new research from authors of Agrifood Atlas that suggests large agribusiness companies monopolizing global food system, posing risk to future consumer

choice, jobs, food production; report comes as European Commission considers whether to authorize Bayer-Monsanto merger

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Antonio Turrent Fernández of Union of Scientists Committed to Society writes for Mexican news outlet, examines upcoming court decision on GM corn permits, notes suspending the precautionary measure would be a victory for multinational corporations

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast, hosted by Paul Vincelli, features Bolivian biotech supporter/educator Cecilia Gonzalez, who expresses frustration at farmers' inability to compete with neighboring countries that do produce GM crops

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service issues GAIN Report about Mexican federal biotechnology regulators taking custody of GE cotton fields as precautionary measure after finding events not explicitly mentioned on permits granted in Chihuahua, La Laguna

News: Mexican business news site reports tests in Mexico and Spain with GM wheat suitable for people with celiac disease "are very encouraging"; the CRISPR gene edited wheat would open "a huge door" for those affected by the disease

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand reports Federated Farmers has withdrawn its appeal against the right of councils to control use of GMOs in their areas, but farmers lobby stands by its position that government should regulate GMO technology, not councils

News: New Zealand news outlet reports Northland Regional Council may now include GMOs in its policy after Federated Farmers withdrew legal challenge of its jurisdiction, following amendment to Resource Management Act that reduced chance of success in court

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from officials in India's Maharashtra district calling for a federal probe into the sale of illegal cotton varieties. Nigerian lawmakers investigated the alleged importation of unapproved varieties of GM maize.

- Maharashtra officials called for India's Central Bureau of Investigation to probe the illegal sale of herbicide-tolerant cotton varieties, targeting five seed companies whose cotton seeds carried the tolerance trait. Police in Nagpur reportedly were also investigating the companies. **See more**
- *News Agency of Nigeria* reported that the country's House of Representatives questioned National Biosafety Management Agency representatives over Olam Group's alleged importation of 70,000 tons of unapproved GM maize. In the meeting of an ad hoc food investigatory committee, legislators asked the agency for list of companies importing GMOs. **See more**
- A Filipino news outlet reported that Australian researchers with Queensland University of Technology were planning to launch field trials of a wilt-resistant banana. Researchers highlighted the success of Australian trials and emphasized the need for technological intervention to prevent the disease's spread. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico reports USDA funding undercuts agricultural research projects, says U.S. lacks commitment to ag research for food safety, nutrition

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science profiles young female farmer from Zimbabwe who promotes biofortification to help tackle country's problems with micronutrient deficiencies, including vitamin A deficiency, sells her own brand of nutritious whole grains, says she's encouraged by development of new technologies

Commentary: Scientific American's Annie Sneed recounts her personal experience with a CRISPR DIY kit as part of investigation of debate over potential dangers of the technology, highlights her visits to an amateur and a professional CRISPR lab

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association says mayors of 100 Filipino cities at Regeneration International sign on to League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities to rid cities of GMOs, pesticides

Commentary: Independent Science News examines Cornell Alliance for Science's announcement that it has received renewed contribution of $6.4 million from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, amplifies claims that the Alliance is a biotech "propaganda machine"

More North America items

Africa

News release: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update recaps workshop held in Kenya to prepare Ag Ministry officials for introduction of Bt cotton, aimed at developing capacity for effective management of GM crop; KALRO researcher says trials for Bollgard I and II cotton varieties completed successfully 10 years ago

Report: Malabo Montpellier Panel issues report, "Nourished: How Africa Can Build a Future Free from Hunger and Malnutrition," that asserts African countries have started to reverse trends in hunger, malnutrition, notes panel aims to enhance use of evidence to support dialogue, guide policy choices by African governments

Commentary: IFPRI posts blog co-written by its Africa director discussing how Africa can end hunger and malnutrition, promoting work of Malabo Montpellier Panel to provide African leaders space to discuss what works, pointing out African countries that have reduced malnutrition and hunger use long-term nutrition action plans

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports House of Representatives questions National Biosafety Management Agency over Olam Group's alleged importation of 70,000 tons of unapproved GM maize, asking the agency for list of companies importing GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports on Crop Care Federation of India's criticism of Maharasthra government special investigation team investigations of Yavatmal farmer deaths, arguing they narrowly focus on pesticides, fail to cover all possible etiological factors

News release: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update recaps public briefing on latest biosafety regulatory guidelines in the Philippines presented to key stakeholders, with experts also discussing science, food and environmental safety, current and upcoming products of crop biotech in country

Interview: India's The Wire interviews Bioversity International Asia Pacific regional head N.K. Krishna Kumar, Kumar highlights goal of preserving agricultural biodiversity with seed banks and encouraging farmers to grow crops suited to their region

News: India business news site reports Maharashtra govt urges Central Bureau of Investigation probe into incident of farmer deaths due to pesticide poisoning in Yavatmal district after cotton research report finds herbicide tolerant genes found in seeds of five branded companies, which is not permissible under Environment Protection Act 1986

News: Times of India reports Vidarbha govt decides against giving our licenses to Bt seeds, pesticides sold in Maharashtra under different brand names (i.e., co-marketing), state ag officials says this practice makes it difficult to take legal action against companies

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Delft University of Technology Science Communication master's student Kimberly Barentsen describes her hopes and frustrations in seeking to use biotech to improve sustainability and restore coral reefs, committing to fight perception that GE is unethical

Commentary: Biodiversity International official recaps G7's work under Italian Presidency, what outcomes mean for mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity, highlights NGO's "Seeds for Needs" initiative implemented in 14 countries to help farmers access wider range of crop varieties

News: Belgian news site reports federal government to organize public inquiry into Flemish Institute of Biotechnology's GM maize field trial

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Global Justice Ecology Project promotes Nov. 21 ceremony for members of Brazil's Landless Worker's Movement (MST) to be awarded Juliana Santilli prize for conservation, sustainable use of agro-biodiversity, notes proposal to expand paper and cellulose factory in Brazil seeks to use transgenic eucalyptus

News: Nicaraguan news outlet reports on recent meeting of producers' groups in Estelí to speak out against introduction of GMOs, highlighting damage to grain production and impact on land and health, National Council of Cooperatives plans to make national pronouncement

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on translation of Gregor Mendel's article on transmission of characteristics between generations into Portuguese for the first time, released by Embrapa, the book also includes information on new biotech developments such as CRISPR

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on GMO labeling debate at recent public Federal Chamber hearing, Marijane Lisboa of Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (Idec) argued it misleads consumers to not provide information about what they are buying

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Radio New Zealand reports Federated Farmers withdrew lawsuit appeal that opposed Northland Regional Council's control of GE crops

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 Australian trade organization Federated Farmers had dropped an appeal to stop regional GM cultivation bans. Reports on a U.S. Chamber of Commerce meeting highlighted agricultural industry concerns over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks. A Brazilian Senate committee held a discussion on the role of GM crops in the country.

- *The New Zealand Herald* reported that Federated Farmers dropped its appeal protesting regional GM crop cultivation bans in Whangarei and Northland. A spokesperson said the decision came in response to changes in the Resource Management Act, which would make it unlikely that the group would succeed in its appeal. The Soil & Health Association and GE-Free Northland issued statements applauding the "victory" for district constituents and the environment. **See more**
- U.S. agricultural trade groups highlighted the importance of NAFTA for food producers during a Chamber of Commerce event on the trade deal. U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas) called on business leaders to "educate" legislators and consumers about how the country has benefited from the deal. The National Association of Wheat Growers noted that farmers already face economic difficulties and rely on open markets with Mexico and Canada. **See more**
- Brazil's Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development held a hearing to review the social and environmental impacts of GM crop cultivation in the country. Landless movement representatives, academics and the regulatory body CTNBio participated in the debate. **See more**

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North America

News release: U.S. Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts called on U.S. Chamber of Commerce to help set record straight on benefits of NAFTA for U.S. agriculture, noting fight against pervasive view that NAFTA does not benefit U.S. economy

News: Ag Daily reports Midwest becoming hub for agricultural technology development, noting Monsanto and Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, state universities in Missouri, Illinois, biotech companies opening facilities in region

News: Utah Public Radio talks to Scott Hamilton Kennedy, director of "Food Evolution" documentary, who says he worked with Institute of Food Technologists to give public fact-based dialogue about GMOs in U.S. food system; Kennedy notes IFT doesn't represent industry, many of its members work for organic and natural food companies

News release: Donald Danforth Plant Science Center announces scientists develop groundnut resistant to poisonous carcinogen aflatoxin, major risk to human and animal health worldwide, by suppressing aflatoxin-producing fungus in groundnut; collaborators plan field trials in India in upcoming years for further development

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies UC San Diego study demonstrating significant increase in human glyphosate exposure over past 23 years, links its use on GE crops to negative environmental effects as well as health problems, promotes organic ag

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Julie Mollins of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) writes for Thomson Reuters Foundation, recounts recent Borlaug Dialogue conference in Iowa where panelists discussed benefits of CRISPR-Cas9 for smallholders

Video: Video by 2015 Cornell Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellow and Open Forum on African Biotechnology (OFAB) coordinator for Tanzania, Philbert Nyinondi, shows farmers from various regions voicing concerns and calling for access to GM seeds

Video: KNOW GMO VLOG features Ugandan researcher Jerome Kubiriba in discussion about using biotech to develop bacterial wilt-resistant banana varieties, he notes resistance is not possible via conventional breeding, and that the GM banana is still a banana

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports remarks by participants during session of ITPGRFA Governing Body in Rwanda, with experts calling development of drought-, disease-resistant crops vital to counter effects of climate change on Africa's food security; climate-resilient crops needed for drought-affected regions

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on gov't approval for cultivation of Monsanto high-yielding GM corn seed variety, Monsanto Pakistan's Aamir Mirza noted it is insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant to boost productivity, reduce costs and improve grain quality

News: Pakistan's The Nation reports GM maize seed to be available in Punjab in 2018, Punjab Seed Corporation in final process to approve technology; GM maize seed not currently available in Pakistan

Commentary: Vietnamese news source runs article by director of Institute of Applied Medicine of Vietnam pointing out why GM plants needed, illustrating how science doesn't back up claims that GMOs hurt human health, explaining country's regulations on GM food

More Asia items

Europe

News: Ukrainian news source reports government considering bill to require labeling of food, feed and veterinary products containing at least 0.9 percent GMO ingredients, would bring Ukraine's law on GMO labeling in line with European Parliament and Council of EU

News: Zurich-based news outlet reports on recent "Sowing the Future!" campaign event in Feldbach, where about 50 people gathered to sow organic wheat as part of GM-free ag campaign launched by organic grain breeder Peter Kunz 10 years ago

Commentary: Germany's Heinrich Boell Foundation examines how Monsanto, other agribusiness companies positioning themselves to market crops produced through genome editing without having to call them GM, warning biotech firms could use distinction to get around precautionary principle, public and political opposition

News: Spanish news outlet reports on Valencian Institute of Agrarian Research's work to combat citrus greening, highlights University of Alicante researcher Francisco Mojica's work on potential biotech solutions such as CRISPR

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation reports economic situation of transgenics discussed at public hearing of Environment Committee in Chamber of Deputies, with company researcher asserting necessity of demystifying genetic engineering, pointing out country is second-largest producer of transgenic crops

News release: Brazilian Chamber of Deputies reports researcher from state-owned Agricultural Research Corporation says at public hearing transgenics can help crops adapt to climate change, drought, used successfully around world, but speaker from Permanent Campaign Against Agrochemicals and for Life calls technology risky

Commentary: News site for Brazil's Worker's Party (PT) highlights Deputy Nilto Tatto's recent statement at Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CMADS) hearing, arguing that GM crops have increased production costs for small and medium producers

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Friends of the Earth Australia provides email template to contact Assistant Minister for Health, David Gillespie, asking him to intervene to ensure products of new breeding techniques are regulated as GMOs, following Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's proposed deregulation

Campaign: Friends of the Earth Australia calls on supporters to take action in opposition to Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's (OGTR) proposal to deregulate new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, pointing to unintended effects

News: Australian news outlet reports on Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's recommendation that products developed using site-directed nucleases should not be defined as GM, speeding up the commercialization process

News release: New Zealand's GE-Free Northland celebrates victory as Federated Famers decides to withdraw two appeals on ruling allowing regional councils to restrict GMOs, calls for Federated Farmers to withdraw its other outstanding "vexatious" appeals

News: New Zealand Herald reports on Federated Farmers' decision to drop appeal against High Court ruling allowing regional councils to ban GMOs in their areas, although they still maintain position that GMOs should be regulated by federal government

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 coverage of the EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum, highlighting efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and address climate impacts. In Uganda, civil society groups vowed to fight the country's recently pass biosafety bill.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Indonesian news outlets reported on the start of the EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum, a regional event to promote sustainable regional food production. While commentary specifically about agricultural biotechnology has been limited, several media outlets have reported on the need for agricultural technology, in general, to ensure regional food security. In a statement at the conference, Indonesia Vice President Jusuf Kalla noted that biotechnology and bioengineering could be important tools to address climate impacts on food production in the country. **See more**
- Uganda's *The Independent* reported civil society groups are threatening to sue over the Parliament's passage of Uganda's Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill. The newspaper quoted a spokesperson for the Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria, who said activist groups are organizing to file a lawsuit once the bill receives a presidential signature and is passed into law. Other critics interviewed in the piece claimed the seed bill could force farmers to plant biotech seeds and that GM foods could harm human health. **See more**

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North America

News: Brownfield Ag News previews Organic and Non-GMO Forum to be held in St. Louis on Nov. 6-7, with industry experts to discuss how producers, food companies can strategically enter organic food market; one of organizers says forum to address advent of gene editing technology, logistics that affect farmer returns

Commentary: The Packer's Tom Karst reports on release of non-browning Arctic apples in U.S. market, without a label indicating they are GM, believes promotion of "preservative-free" may be a winning message for sliced apples

Commentary: "SupermarketGuru" Phil Lempert writes for Forbes, amplifies recent Michigan State University study demonstrating consumer confusion about organic and non-GMO labels, calls for acknowledgment that current communication methods are ineffective

News release: Dow AgroSciences promotes its record-setting number of finalists at 2017 AGROW Awards in Indianapolis, taking top honors in four categories, including win for GE Enlist cotton in Best New Crop Protection Product or Trait, as well as Best R&D Pipeline

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on opposition to and support of recently passed biosafety bill, organic stakeholders are concerned that introduction of GMOs will threaten their competition, civil society organizations threaten legal action, but scientists are excited

Commentary: Zambia Daily Mail columnist argues the country cannot afford to miss out on benefits of biotech, highlighting potential to boost food security and successful adoption of the technology by other nations, notes need for appropriate regulations and guidelines

Commentary: University of Ottawa law professor and Co-Founder of Open African Innovation Research, Chidi Oguamanam, writes for Nigerian news outlet, argues introduction of high-tech industrial ag practices such as GMOs is not best solution to food insecurity

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino food news site reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) recent meetings, coordinated with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), on status of Golden Rice development, with participation from multiple stakeholders

News: Indonesia's Merdeka highlights four obstacles that have prevented country from achieving President Joko Widodo's 2014 target to become food self-sufficient in three years, with Vice President Jusuf Kalla saying food technology needed to increase productivity by 3 percent annually

Commentary: The Huffington Post runs op-ed by global sustainability advocate promoting inaugural EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum (Oct. 30-31) in Indonesia, work of NGO LAUNCH Food to increase access to healthy food globally, inspire consumers to make more nutritious choices

Commentary: The Diplomat runs op-ed co-written by Indonesia's health minister, founder of EAT Foundation promoting EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum on Oct. 30-31 in Jakarta, arguing Asia-Pacific has potential to lead world in ensuring healthy, sustainable food for all

News: Bisnis Indonesia reports on Oct. 30 opening of EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum in Jakarta, with Vice President Jusuf Kalla saying he believes biotechnology and bioengineering can help solve problems of sustainable food security in Indonesia, other countries

Commentary: Kavitha Kuruganti of Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) writes for Hindustan Times, calls for regulatory overhaul on GMOs and pesticides, linking recent pesticide poisonings to increased use on Bt cotton and illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: French NGO Resistance Verte urges supporters to sign Fondation Pour La Nature Et L'Homme's petition against "hidden GMOs," claiming GMOs negatively impact the environment, biodiversity, soil and farmers

Campaign: French NGO Fondation Pour La Nature Et L'Homme urges supporters to sign petition "Refuse GMOs Hidden On Your Plate," calls for GMO moratorium in France, EU regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, and promotion of agroecology

News: Dutch news outlet reports on feed company ForFarmers' announcement that it now offers GMO-free goat feed with Verband Lebensmittel Ohne Gentechniek (VLOG) certification to meet Dutch demand for VLOG certified dairy products

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on Committee on Genetic Modification's (COGEM) call for tightening criteria for Category 2 GM field trials, while criteria for categories 1 and 3 may remain unchanged, regarding data requirements to ensure health and environmental safety

More Europe items

Latin America

Event: Brazil's Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CMADS) will hold public hearing on social and environmental impact of GM crops (Oct. 31, 2017), participants include representatives of biotech and civil society organizations

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) recently held workshop with theme "Agronomy in the economic and social development of Brazil," researcher Rubens Augusto de Miranda noted new Green Revolution will come from science and technology

News: Russia Today reports on study by Autonomous University of Yucatán researchers demonstrating that plantations of Monsanto's GM soybeans in Yucatan Peninsula are impacting bees and contaminating organic honey exported to the EU

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Weekly Times reports on the close of public comment period for Food Standards Australia and New Zealand review of Omega-3 enhanced GM canola

News release: Soil and Health Association of New Zealand celebrates Federated Farmers' decision not to appeal against right of local councils to restrict use of GMOs, following dismissal of previous appeals to Environment Court and High Court

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 30, 2017
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:03:51 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 start of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Developments in the commercialization of GM mustard in India and the start of the Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul also generated commentary.

- Marking the launch of the meeting on plant genetic resources, civil society groups issued statements on the need for protecting smallholder farmers' access to seeds. Representatives of the All-India Coordination Committee of Farmers' Movements, La Via Campesina and Third World Network each commented on the important role peasant farmers play in preserving seed diversity. **See more**
- Following last week's controversy over the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's apparent withdrawal of support for GM mustard, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported that minutes from the group's May meeting had been corrected to show that regulators had recommended approval of the crop. Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan has yet to accept or reject the recommendation. **See more**
- The Nobel Prize Dialogue began, with discussion centering on "The Age to Come." *The Korea Herald* reported on the various sessions, including statements from Nobel laureate Richard Roberts on the importance of biotechnology in agriculture. **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: Scott Miller of Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources in Broomfield, Colorado writes for local news outlet, explains environmental benefits of GM crops, argues that any research program for Boulder County ag should be comprehensive, methodical and fair

Commentary: Independent Women's Forum posts piece by senior fellow and author Julie Gunlock about political correctness surrounding Halloween, including Non-GMO Project advising parents to make sure their children's treats are non-GMO only, blasts group for promoting its own "money-making scheme"

Commentary: Mark Lynas of Cornell Alliance for Science describes Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato's legal struggles over his decision to grow GM maize, highlighting Fidenato's goal of reducing pesticide use, and his plans to plant GM maize again next year

News: Food Dive amplifies University of Florida study finding some consumers mistake "organic" and "non-GMO" terms on food labels as synonymous, more consumers willing to pay higher price for products labeled "Non-GMO Project Verified" than for "USDA Organic," don't understand certified organic products also non-GMO

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA Amanda Zaluckyj lists six concerns about current food marketing trends, notes non-GMO labeling vilifies good food, negatively impacts low-income consumers, and promotes less environmentally-friendly ag practices

Event: Toxin-Free Pima County to host Resist! & Revitalize our Communities Summit (Nov. 4), featuring "Whitewash" author Carey Gillam, "Going Against GMOs" author Melissa Diane Smith, and Organic Consumers Assocation's Alexis Baden-Mayer

More North America items

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina, on occasion of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, calls on ITPGRFA governing body to prohibit patenting of genetic information, and grant peasants' rights to save, use, exchange and sell seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News: Korea Herald reports on recent Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul with theme "The Age to Come," Laureate Richard Roberts spoke in support of GMOs, noting potential to fight malnutrition, and arguing that good quality food makes a big difference in longevity

Commentary: Prickly Research's Edward Hammond writes for Third World Network, calls on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) governing body to clarify that Multi-lateral System (MLS) sequences come with same benefit sharing obligations as apply to seeds

News: United News of India reports farmers groups worried about government's lack of national consultation over its position in ITPGRFA that affects their rights over seeds, intellectual property rights; farmers complain much of seed banks collection under Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources held by CGIAR

News: Xinhua reports on 7th Session of Governing Body of ITPGRFA in Kigalia, Rwanda, aimed at strengthening treaty, which facilitates access to genetic materials of 64 crops in multilateral system for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture; experts call for conservation of food plant genetic varieties to fight world hunger

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture writes for Indo-Asian News Service, notes ball is in Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's court regarding GM mustard, after Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) uploaded revised minutes of its meeting on GM mustard, documenting its recommendation

News: Korean news outlet reports on government efforts to control spread of GM oilseed rape, highlights concerns about ecosystem pollution and biodiversity loss

News: Korea Herald reports on Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul, where laureate Richard Roberts spoke about benefits of GMOs, noting they help fight malnutrition and solve starvation issues in developing nations, and that good quality food impacts longevity

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Belgium's Federal Public Service Health announces public consultation starting Oct. 30 and running to Nov. 29 on field trial application with GM maize, with citizens allowed to vote on field trial, provides access to data in application file, online form to send comments, questions

News release: UN FAO promotes Oct. 30-Nov. 3 meeting of Governing Body for ITPGRFA in Kigali, Rwanda, where curtain-raiser event held to discuss synthetic biology, new technologies that could revolutionize crop breeding; scientist notes shift toward digital collections that include complete genomes and "parts" registries

Audio: United Nations Radio posts interview with Kent Nnadozie, head of governing body for International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, about expectations for governing body's 7th Session (Oct. 30-Nov. 3) in Rwanda

Commentary: Michela Becchi of Italian food and wine publication Gambero Rosso praises Food Evolution documentary, highlighting its goal of countering fake news about GMOs, argues time has come to abandon preconceptions and unfounded opinions

News: Bosnia and Herzegovina news outlet reports local manufacturers will soon be able to label products as non-GMO, Food Safety Agency Deputy Director Dragan Benjo noted difficulty in determining whether animal products such as milk or meat contain GMOs

News: U.K. news outlet reports on Sainsbury Laboratory's field trials of late blight-resistant GM potato variety, lead researcher Jonathan Jones noted initial results offer hope of being able to control late blight without use of chemical fungicides

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Vía Campesina's Latin American coordination, CLOC, amplifies Friends of the Earth radio podcast in reaction to EU's hint that it will block UN treaty negotiations on transnational corporations and human rights violations

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Organic farmer warns on New Zealand news site of "looming threat" synthetic proteins pose to country's farmers, calls for organic approach

News: Australian farming news site reports on recent report by Belgium-based International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), warning that large agribusiness firms have gotten too big to feed humanity sustainably, and increase farmers' costs

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 30, 2017
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:01:45 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features columns from three world regions - Asia, Oceania and Africa - calling on national governments to clear the way for biotechnology. Commentary pieces from India, Australia and Nigeria argue on behalf of genetically modified crops as a safe means to feed the hungry, provide consumers additional choices and help farmers compete financially.

As European regulators again delayed their decision on whether to renew glyphosate's license - and for how long - commentators continued to poke holes in the case for a ban, with Terence Corcoran arguing only green activists see reason to support one. Paul Driessen urged U.S. lawmakers to subpoena officials behind the disputed International Agency for Research on Cancer review.

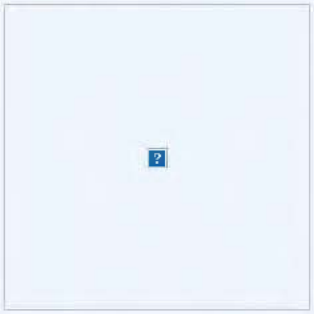
To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you still need to create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Paul Mills



California alternative health researcher Paul J. Mills appeared last week as the lead author of a heavily promoted study alleging increased glyphosate levels in California residents.

Stories Worth Sharing

Michael Tabb: Non-GMO labels could be persuading people to make poor food choices

Hannah Ritchie: Data analysis shows organic farming harms environment more than conventional in several ways

Terence Corcoran: Reasons to ban glyphosate don't exist "except in the minds of global green activists"

Marni Soupcoff: If GM corn causes paranoia after all these years of safety, modified pigs sure to "freak out" environmentalists

Financial Express: "It would be tragic if India is not able to harness GM technology" and keeps pandering to opponents

Peter Hunt: Time for Australia to "trust the rigour of science" and stop falling behind on GM technology like non-browning apples

Paul Driessen: U.S. Congress should subpoena Chris Portier, IARC officials and demand openness on glyphosate review

Durrie Bouscaren: St. Louis scientists developing gene-edited cassava for East Africa, although regulatory future remains unclear

Sonnie Nwosu: Delays in adopting biotechnology have economic and

Mills' background, affiliations with the Maharishi movement and questionable credentials raised questions from watchdog groups.

Learn more about Mills HERE.

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humanitarian costs

Borlaug communications award winner Lusk sees need to engage consumers who don't trust ag technology

Josh Bloom: Newsweek falls for usual trick in generating "overblown" fear about pesticides - failing to consider the exposure level

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What's Trending?

European lawmakers delay decision on glyphosate reauthorization; debate turns to shorter term as 10-year proposal fails

Documents show Indian regulators plan to delay consideration of GM mustard commercialization

French NGO files legal action in bid to block country's approval of sulfoxaflor, citing risk to bees

California study involving Maharishi-educated researcher claims glyphosate levels in urine increased after introduction of GM crops

Calendar highlights

October 31-November 1	October 31	November 3
British Crop Production Council Congress	Presentation of the Findings of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (Ottawa)	Canadian Biotechnology Action Network public forum on synthetic biology, new genetic engineering

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 27-29, 2017
Date: Sunday, October 29, 2017 9:04:30 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 international coverage on genetically engineered pigs with lower body fat developed by Chinese and British scientists. There was continued reporting and commentary on illegal Bt cotton cultivation in India.

- *The Washington Post* reported on researchers' development of GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat that also can withstand colder temperatures. Farmers said the pigs likely would cut costs for larger producers but would not taste as good as conventional pigs. Media outlets from France, New Zealand, Croatia and throughout Asia reported on the development. **See more**
- *The Times of India* reported the Nagpur District's agricultural department filed reports against three people for the illegal sale of unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton seed. The reports recommend an investigation to see if the seed originated from the Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech field trials. An activist wrote in an op-ed for *FirstPost* that "Monsanto's reckless practices" have led to Bt toxins in food and edible oil and noted that Gilles-Eric Seralini claims this could be a health hazard. **See more**
- The University of Illinois announced that its RIPE research project would allow smallholder farmers to have access to Bt cowpea seeds free of charge in 2018. The newly developed crop is resistant to the Maruca pod borer, which can destroy up to 80 percent of an African farmer's cowpea crop. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health's Alex Berezow criticizes New York Times' Eric Lipton's science coverage, highlighting biased treatment of Kevin Folta and recent EPA appointee Nancy Beck, notes work with industry does not make one dishonest

Commentary: Organic Authority's Jill Ettinger examines development of "clean" vegan meat, which she argues could potentially lead to end of GM crops, claiming they are dangerous due to herbicide tolerance, also claims herbicide use harms the environment

News: Hawaiian TV station reports Kauai County Mayor Bernard Carvalho announces candidacy for lieutenant governor, says he wants to take battle against GMOs to state level

Campaign: Noting upcoming Halloween events, Center for Food Safety amplifies petition calling for on-package GMO labeling and urges parents to buy organic candies to prevent child exposure to GMOs and pesticides

News: Arizona NPR affiliate reports state's cotton growers seeing increase in pink bollworm resistance to GM cotton, with only three cases of resistant bugs in first decade of use followed by 13 cases in last 10 years; growers also plant some traditional cotton seeds to keep bollworm's resistant gene at bay, release sterile moths

Commentary: Boulder Daily Camera editorial says County Commission ignores responsibility for creating mess after banning GMOs, depriving farmers of their livelihood, failing in creating plan to replace GM crops on public land, and blaming farmers for "polarized climate"

Commentary: Platform for millennial content posts piece by food writer defining GMOs, comparing them to traditional hybrids, calling them "far cry" from toxic substances, pointing out 92 percent of corn grown in United States genetically engineered

Commentary: Treehugger reviews "Modified" documentary examining question of why Canada and United States don't label GM foods, quotes Seralini claim in film that opposition to GMOs justified because GM seed companies want to gain ownership of world's most important food crops

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news site columnist says delays in adopting biotech and pod-borer-resistant cowpea have high cost economically and in terms of malnutrition, hunger, lives

News: Nigerian news site profiles World Food Prize recipient Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank president, notes activists chide him for being too friendly with Monsanto, other GM product producers, highlights successes such as ending corruption in fertilizer subsidies and innovations to aid farmers

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas in discussion about food security in Africa, with focus on threats to production, innovations to address them, and resistance toward adoption of new technologies

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports U.S. Embassy training program for 30 journalists in Kumasi on understanding biotech, Ghana's biosafety regulatory systems, and implications for food security and economic growth

News: Ghana news site reports local food crops being phased out because they cannot withstand environmental degradation, notes National Biosafety Authority advocates GM crops to increase yields, withstand weather changes

News release: University of Illinois promotes role of its RIPE research project, which has genetically engineered cowpea to produce Bt protein that protects against Maruca pod borer; many African smallholder farmers depend on cowpea, will have option to grow Bt variety in 2018

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Activist writes in Indian news site op-ed that "Monsanto's reckless practices" led to Bt toxins in food, edible oils, claims this could be hazardous to health according to Seralini

Commentary: Retired Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Director General Jiban Krishna Biswas concludes series on GMO debate, with focus on disagreement between Greenpeace and scientists, calls for case-by-case evaluation of GMOs and consideration of various impacts

News: Times of India reports on Nagpur ag department's filing of three first information reports (FIR) for alleged illegal sale of herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds, calling for investigation of whether seeds were leaked from Mahyco-Monsanto-Biotech field trials

News: Pakistan's Business Recorder interviews executive director of Crop Life Asia, Siang Hee Tan, who calls for country to craft ag investment policy to use biotech to help farmers benefit from crop protection technology

Campaign: Coalition for a GM-Free India letter to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee accuses regulator of lies, withholding information, disorganization in oversight of biotech regulations, GM

Commentary: Writing in India news outlet, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies researcher argues Yavatmal farmer deaths should raise red flags on value of GM crops growing resistant to pests, requiring more pesticides, crippling farmers economically

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italian pro-science NGO says Roman Observer op-ed by pro-organic NGO president accusing biotech industry of manipulating science on GMOs, glyphosate omits facts on the conflicts of interest, data mishandling of IARC

News release: BfR focus group research finds participants largely reject gene editing technologies, believing they are forms of genetic engineering; BfR emphasizes importance of public education of technology

News: German news site reports Germany's Social Democratic Party introduces bill to ban GMO cultivation, calling on Bundestag members to vote in 'decision of conscience' before new government forms

News: Dutch news source reports increased extent of resistance to GM crops in Brazil, notes Dow AgroSciences recently introduced transgenic soybean with fivefold resistance, including two genes to resist insects and three to resist different herbicides

Commentary: Bulgarian news site editorial says Parliament's ban on advertising GMOs is good start "to protect children's health," says lobbyists should not be allowed to create loopholes in the law

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on lack of GMO labeling requirement in the country, highlights labeling mandates in 61 other countries, Alliance for Food Health demands labeling for consumers in spite of scientific consensus on GMO safety

News release: Brazil's Chamber of Deputies announces public hearing Oct. 31 before Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss GMO crops, environmental and economic consequences

News: Uruguayan news site reports no GM seeds approved in last 5 years despite rules and control mechanisms; official says ideology, politics prevent GMO approval despite promise of higher yields

News: Peruvian news site reports biologist David Castro argues that Peru's GMO moratorium should be limited to six years and GMO production should be allowed in some areas

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on development of GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat using CRISPR-Cas9, highlights regulatory and ethical debate surrounding CRISPR, products of which are not currently regulated by USDA

News: Australian Associated Press reports Australia, EU to begin formal talks this year on trade deal after European Parliament set initial negotiating position, which mandates any deal to include measures to fight counterfeiting of GM or licensed ag and food products

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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Date: Thursday, October 26, 2017 9:01:21 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing commentary on GM mustard delays in India, as well as international coverage of the U.S. launch of pre-sliced GE apples. Regulators and researchers in Nigeria highlighted the benefits of the biosafety law, despite activist criticism.

- Indian regulators' delay in approving a GM mustard for commercialization drew more commentary today. Continuing a series of articles criticizing the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, *Smart Indian Agriculture* editor Vivian Fernandes argued that its unexpected delay was disheartening for local researchers. In a similar piece, *The Times of India* reported that Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) was refocusing its business on other Asian countries given India's poor intellectual property environment. **See more**
- Reports throughout the week have highlighted the November U.S. launch of pre-sliced genetically engineered Arctic Apples. Reports in Italian, U.S. and Indonesian sources have quoted Okanagan Specialty Fruits founder Neil Carter on his hopes that the product will reduce food waste. An Australian publication highlighted the role of CSIRO research in the product's development. **See more**
- Nigerian news outlets reported on ongoing biosafety awareness events in the country. In separate interviews, regulators and researchers with the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (NBBC), the University of Ibadan and the Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) all encouraged consumers and farmers to understand and embrace the benefits of GM crop cultivation. **See more**
- Australia's assistant minister for health announced that the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator would release draft amendments to gene editing regulations in November, to be followed by public consultation and approval by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology. **See more**

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North America

News release: MIT and Broad Institute promote new paper in Science describing how their scientists created CRISPR-based system called "REPAIR" that can efficiently edit RNA in human cells, altering gene products without making changes to the genome, carrying profound potential as tool for research, treatment of disease

News: Wired reports articles published in journals Nature and Science show new CRISPR techniques could be more precise, have potential for helping create new drought-resistant crops

Commentary: Writing in Global Farmer Network, Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato explains his long court battle over the planting of GM maize; says farmers should not allow activists to define the GMO debate

News: The Fresno Bee reports GMO Arctic apples being rolled out in November to about 400 stores in Midwest in form of sliced Golden Delicious apples engineered to keep from turning brown; company says GMO apples designed to reduce food waste, provide consumers with sliced apples packaged without preservatives

News: Montreal's Journal Metro reports tofu in Canada contains no GMOs, despite rumors based on fact that 78 percent of world's soybean crops genetically modified in 2016; report notes non-GMO yellow bean soybean used to make tofu, other products for human consumption in Canada

Interview: AgWeb Farm Journal talks to Michele Payn of Cause Matters Corp., author of "Food Truths From Farm To Table," who lists GMOs as most contentious food issue for consumers, in her opinion, says she would list nothing on food labels but government-mandated claims, calls absence claims most misleading

More North America items

Africa

Event: Coalition pour la protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain to host conference reviewing findings of study by farmers on Burkina Faso Bt cotton cultivation (Oct. 27)

News: Ghana news site reports during biotech media training workshop, National Bio-Safety Authority board chairman says GMOs safe to eat, notes Ghana received GM food from US during 1983 drought; says anti-GMO groups churn out false information

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium secretary says Nigeria must embrace ag biotech to improve its food security

News: AFSA chair criticizes Nigeria's biosafety regulating agency, claiming it puts GM crop certification ahead of the environment and people, says NBMA is "unreliable umpire," notes Bt cotton failure in Burkina Faso, says Monsanto's GM products contain "super toxins"

News: PM News Nigeria reports food technology professor at University of Ibadan asks federal government to use Bt cotton to revive nation's textile industry; speaking at meeting of Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology, Ogugua Aworh said use of Bt cotton would increase production of agricultural raw materials

More Africa items

Asia

News: Singapore news site reports China rejects fruit imported from Malaysia after detecting GMOs; crops included tomatoes, cassava, corn, cotton, soybeans

News: South China Morning Post amplifies news that researchers have developed gene-edited pigs better able to regulate body temperatures, add that regulatory approval is unlikely

News: Chinese English-language news site reports China releases regulations that will make GMO testing more transparent, international companies must report experiment materials, testing methods when importing GM products for processing

News: India news site reports pesticide poisoning in Maharashtra raising concerns about pesticide practices, claims that Bt doesn't doesn't need pesticides; farmer group says safety precautions are non-existent

News: Times of India reports Maharashtra state government requests denotification of Bollgard II due because it is no longer pest-resistant; Monsanto spokesperson notes the denotifying the seed may be unlawful, and there are only pockets of resistance loss reported

News: Indian economic news site reports Mahyco reduces GM research in India, plans to take technology to other Asian, African countries due to stringent regulations, lack of clarity in India

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes criticizes GEAC, environment ministry decision to defer GM mustard approval due to stiff opposition, notes Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan claims there are arguments on both sides, but no evidence supports anti-biotech arguments; says scientists are baffled by U-turn on

biotech crop

News: Oman's Al Roya reports National Bioethics Committee agrees to convene symposium, "Ethical considerations for genetically modified foods," in cooperation with stakeholders, to be held in first quarter of 2018

More Asia items

Europe

News: Bulgarian English-language news outlet reports Bulgaria Parliament passes law prohibiting promotion of unhealthy, GM foods to children

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO inf'OGM points out China has authorized two new transgenic plants developed by U.S. firms, renewed authorizations for 14 others but also returned 350 tons of alfalfa to United States because it had not been reported as transgenic

News: Sueddeutsche Zeitung reports that SPD has introduced a bill to ban genetically modified plants, says passage will be difficult but current parliamentary situation could be beneficial

News: France's BFMTV reports critics warn CETA free trade agreement between Canada and EU could allow GM salmon to be sold in France without government's knowledge; report notes Canada doesn't require labeling of GE salmon, but fishing industry sources claim simple tests can determine if salmon genetically modified

News: Turkey's Daily Sabah reports country has world's highest yields of non-GMO cotton, citing German online portal Statista; USDA says non-GMO cotton yield has increased 10 percent in last 10 years, with Turkey seeing top yields; article asserts GMO cotton fiber linked to allergies, skin irritation among people who wear it

Commentary: Swiss news source runs op-ed by writer for NGO criticizing World Food Prize for ties to major agribusinesses, comparing 2017's prize awarded to president of African Food Bank to Food Sovereignty Award given to Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum, fighting to promote local seeds in southern Africa

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Australia ag ministry to release draft amendments to gene editing regulations for public consultation, review by Gene Technology regulator, amendments aim to respond to scientific advances with the industry

News: Australian news site reports Canadian company uses CSIRO technology in Arctic apples to keep fruit from browning; International Food Information Council Foundation spokesperson says concerns regarding GM food are decreasing

More Oceania items

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database	calendar	community
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 25, 2017
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 9 01:33 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 ongoing commentary over news that India's genetic engineering regulator was not planning to make a decision on GM mustard. In Mexico, villagers protesting GM soy cultivation criticized a recent court decision reducing required public input sessions.

- Indian news outlets continued to report on the controversy over regulatory delays in GM mustard. The *Financial Express* criticized the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's decision to delay approval, calling opposition to the crop "tragic" in light of productivity needs. Vivian Fernandes, editor of *Smart Indian Agriculture*, argued that the government's approach to the crop indicated little concern for intellectual property or the rule of law. *The Hindu*, quoting a GEAC chairperson, said that the supposed delay may have been a "typographical error." **See more**
- In Mexico, villagers in the Hopelchén district accused a Second District judge in Campeche of siding with multinational companies and undermining the public consultation process. Colectivo Maya de Los Chenes criticized the judge for only requiring consultation with six indigenous communities, rather than the 34 communities it claims have been affected by the planting of transgenic soybeans. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Reuters reports Nestle leaving Grocery Manufacturers Association at end of year, following similar decision by Campbell Soup Co., notes Nestle had differences with lobbying group on issues including disclosure of GE ingredients, which company supports, and federal overhaul of nutrition labeling requirements

News: The Washington Post reports hybrid coffee plants coming onto market in bid for crop to withstand effects of climate change; French agronomist says new technology, innovations needed to address climate threat; industry-funded group World Coffee Research field-testing 46 new varieties of coffee plants

Commentary: Writing for American Council for Science and Health, Hank Campbell criticizes Time writer for amplifying study by UC San Diego professor whose doctorate came from unaccredited Maharishi University of Management in Iowa, notes previous papers included study on yogic flying

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger discusses UN's World Food Day celebrations in Uganda, highlighting farmer support for public ag biotech, noting ag minister said nation has advanced food crop research and development techniques via genetic engineering, will soon deliver better varieties to farmers

News: Brownfield Ag News reports new study from University of Minnesota plant genetics professor finds both enthusiasm and concern surrounding biotech crops, concludes cooperative network of plant breeders, investors, advocacy groups could construct path to broader acceptance of gene editing

Commentary: StarTalk podcast features Intrexon CEO Randal J. Kirk as guest during discussion of future of biotechnology, including how CRISPR allows for better, more precise gene editing, as well as new developments such as Arctic apple, synthetic meat

News: Colorado newspaper reports Boulder County drops plan for sustainable agriculture research program to help it make transition away from use of GMOs; search for someone to run program opposed by local farmers, who alleged process was unethical, biased toward organic farming

Commentary: Independent Science News contributor amplifies recent study which found that introduction of golden rice gene into a high-yielding Indian rice variety had unintended effects leading to yield loss, highlights Johnathan Latham's argument that Golden Rice exemplifies flaws in using GE as a plant breeding tool

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's satement that the agency's responsibility is to ensure that GM products are safe and labeled for consumers, speaking at recent training session entitled "Capacity Building for Effective Biosafety Management in Nigeria"

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes GM mustard approval process as being undemocratic compared to the process leading to rejection of Bt eggplant, points to health and environmental risks of GMOs, criticizes secretive decision making, over-centralization and domination by powerful vested interests

News: Indian science periodical reports government puts hold on commercial release of GM mustard, quotes anti-GMO activist Kavitha Kuruganti saying opponents will continue fight to reject GM mustard, ensure no GMOs approved; article says farmers, ag experts skeptical about GM mustard after country's problems with Bt cotton

News: The Hindu reports on controversy surrounding Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) stance on GM mustard, as records from a May 2016 meeting do not record approval of the variety, in spite of GEAC's announcement at the time, GEAC Chairperson Amita Prasad attributed the omission to a "typographical error"

Commentary: Editorial in India's Financial Express criticizes Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) decision to put GM mustard on hold, in spite of government support and favorable safety assessments, argues it will be "tragic" if India is unable to harness GM technology

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes writes for India Legal, argues government's handling of illegal GM cotton variety shows it has little regard for intellectual property and rule of law, notes use of pirated seed inhibits technology stewardship and can lead to pest and weed resistance, points out that farmers have no legitimate alternative

News: Times of India reports Vandana Shiva blames Monsanto for recent farmer deaths due to pesticide inhalation in Yavatmal, claiming its Bt cotton has failed to protect crops from pests, resulting in higher pesticide spraying, she also accused Monsanto of intentionally allowing its herbicide-tolerant variety onto the market illegally

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: European farmers' organization Coldiretti sounds alarm following presentation of Ipes

Food report at International Food and Agriculture Forum, noting recent agribusiness mergers will mean that three companies could control over 70 percent of plant protection products and over 60 percent of seeds globally

News release: University of Oxford promotes C4 Rice Project led by its researchers moving toward "supercharging" rice to level of more efficient crops by introducing single maize gene to plant, aimed at improving photosynthesis in rice to increase crop yields; new study published in journal Current Biology

News release: German market research group GfK promotes online survey of consumers in 17 countries that finds they list low or no sugar content, absence of GMO ingredients as very or extremely important factors in their choice of food and drinks; consumers in high-income households place most importance on non-GMO foods

News release: Testbiotech demands that all approvals of GM soybeans sprayed with glyphosate be stopped, after vote on glyphosate's renewal was postponed again, points to potential health risks of residues on GM soybeans, criticizes loopholes in the risk assessment process

News: Deutsche Welle reports scientists working to develop soybean varieties capable of withstanding Germany's cold weather, notes WWF claims large quantities of GE soy, which must be clearly labeled in Germany and EU, reach consumers through being fed to meat animals

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports members of Mayan communities and NGOs accuse Campeche district judge, Adrián Fernando Novelo Pérez, of favoring Monsanto, by reducing number of communities with consultations on GM soybeans from 34 to six

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor claims GMOs are produced by multinational corporations like Monsanto to control the global food supply, criticizes Judge Adrián Fernando Novelo Pérez for ruling in favor of Monsanto regarding GM soy, claiming it violates human rights and those of indigenous peoples

News: Mexican economy news outlet reports on Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) deputy general manager, Manuel Molano's recent assessment that rising maize purchases could be reversed if better technology is adopted, arguing that Mexico is "wasting" biotech, pointing out contradiction in importing GM maize

Interview: Argentinian independent publication, Marcha, interviews former Environmental Ombudsman of the City of Buenos Aires, Elio Brailovsky, in context of document signed by Multisectorial No to the Monsanto Seed Law, he highlights health dangers of glyphosate, especially when sprayed near populated places

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian news outlet contributor voices disappointment that Australia is falling behind in GM technology adoption, noting technologies developed in Australia, such as non-browning apples currently being sold in the U.S., are shunned locally, while other countries reap benefits, calls for trust in science

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:03:46 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 India's biotechnology regulator had no plans to decide on GM mustard commercialization. In Europe, MEPs called for a new regulatory scheme on GM crop import approvals. African news outlets reported on efforts to regulate GM crops in Nigeria.

- *Reuters* and *Indo-Asian News Service* reported that India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had decided to indefinitely delay its approval of a GM mustard variety. The decision was made during a May meeting, though minutes from the meeting were only now posted. Follow-up reporting in several news outlets quoted the Coalition for a GM-Free India, which criticized the regulatory body for not rejecting the application outright. **See more**
- In Europe, MEPs with Greens/EFA and European United Left/Nordic Green Left reported that the European Parliament had approved three objections to recent European Commission decisions allowing GM crop varieties for import. Both statements criticized the current "comitology" process, arguing that the commission's ability to approve crops when Parliament could not reach a qualified majority decision was undemocratic and in need of reform. **See more**
- Nigerian news outlets reported on continuing efforts to implement the country's National Biosafety Agency Law. Speaking at the South-West Agro-ecological Biosafety Awareness Workshop in Ife-Ife, an Obafemi Awolowo University administrator encouraged regulators to use the university's research program for GM crop field trials. In Abuja, the National Biosafety Management Agency launched a four-day training session for regulators. The agency's director-general, Rufus Ebegba, specifically addressed an activist lawsuit and said the agency would maintain its focus on ensuring GM crops in the country were safe. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico reports Nestle leaves Grocery Manufacturers Association, notes Nestle and GMA have differed on food policy issues, citing Nestle disagreement with GMA's opposition to GMO labeling

News: NPR's "The Salt" reports biotech students at State University of New York working to engineer fungus-resistant hop varietals native to New York, where mildew blight destroyed state's hops industry in early 1900s; biotech research could benefit farmers, revive state's historic craft beer industry

News: The Progressive Farmer's "Washington Insider" column amplifies Bloomberg report suggesting U.S. biotech companies may find it harder to secure authorizations for GE crops in EU after United Kingdom leaves bloc in 2019, because UK has voted in favor of GM crops at EU level, where about 60 GM crops approved for import

Commentary: Doug Gurian-Sherman of Strategic Trainings and Expansion begins first of two-part series on "Food Evolution" documentary for Foodtank, claims the film is a piece of pro-GMO propaganda, criticizes its focus on food safety while ignoring other concerns about GM crops

News: NPR's "The Salt" amplifies paper in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in which Chinese scientists report creating healthy GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat than normal pigs; scientists used CRISPR-Cas9 to give pigs gene allowing them to regulate their body temperatures better

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on recent training workshop where National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba emphasized importance of training for modern biotech regulators, noting purpose of NBMA is to ensure effective regulation and safety for human health and the environment

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Vice-Chancellor Eyitope Ogunbodede's call on federal government to use the university's Teaching and Research Farm for GM field trials, arguing Nigeria should not discriminate against technologies proven to be safe

Commentary: Hannah Nnadi of Nigerian Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium writes for local news outlet, dispels myth that deployment of GMOs is part of government plan to kill Nigerians, notes GM products do not kill, and are the most highly regulated products in the world

News: Namibian news outlets reports that student from University of Namibia held a GMO awareness forum, quotes student leaders who link GM crops to infertility and high blood pressure

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent press conference organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE), where spokesperson Ali Tapsoba warned about dangers of Bt Cowpea, promoted Burkina's March Against Monsanto on May 19, 2018

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on release of Environment Ministry's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) document revealing decision to defer approval of GM mustard, in spite of prior GEAC approval, following opposition from activists and politicians

News: Times of India reports that GEAC will not decide on GM mustard cultivation approval, citing recently released meeting minutes; quotes advocacy groups who question how crop was tested

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports on Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) reversal of its prior recommendation for approval of GM mustard, according to minutes of a May 2017 meeting, indicating the decision came following receipt of representations of various stakeholders

Commentary: Contributor for India's Financial Express criticizes Indian government for failing to act when Monsanto made Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) aware of illegal seeds back in 2008, argues India is not much better than China with regards to intellectual property theft

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes writes for India's Financial Express, criticizes ag ministry's intervention in cotton seed market, notes removing the illegal variety would leave farmers with no alternative, criticizes government handling of cotton seed trait fees, notes "illegality thrives when ministers behave like monarchs"

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on government recommendations for sovereignty and managing national food security raised at National Congress 2017, including more effective subsidization of fertilizers, seeds, aid tools and farm machinery

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European United Left/Nordic Green Left European Parliamentary Group announces Parliamentary objection to EU Commission's approval of three new GMOs for use in food, GM Soybean, GM oilseed rape and GM maize 1507, finding EFSA's risk assessment to be "insufficient and inappropriate"

Commentary: Greens/European Free Alliance says EU's undemocratic decision making process has authorized 28 GMOs in three years despite public, Parliament opposition, calls on Commissioner Junker to reform CAP, prioritize people over multinationals

News: Italian news source reports European Left Party opposes EU Commission's approval of three GMO varieties, criticizes EU Commission president Junker for supporting undemocratic process that allows EC to continue to adopt policy unpopular in Parliament

News release: FAO shares Director General's comments at FAO technical committee gathering that called on WTO conference to prioritize food security initiatives, including multilateral trade agreements, harmonized food standards to help smallholder farmers

Commentary: Our World In Data researcher examines environmental footprint of organic versus conventional agriculture, finds organic agriculture more environmentally harmful in several areas

Interview: Dutch news source de Volksrant talks to British science journalist Matt Ridley, who blames "pessimists" for resisting use of GM crops, warns EU suppressing innovation by opposing GM crops, biotechnology, cites EU attitude toward biotech as main reason for his support of Brexit

Commentary: Italian pro-science NGO says it is uncertain how Italian institutions will respond to Ministry of Health analysis finding 3 percent of food samples contain GMOs, notes its past lobbying for open field experimentation of biotech, efforts to combat GMO myths

Study: EFSA GMO panel risk assessment for renewal of Syngenta herbicide-tolerant GM maize variety finds no evidence of new hazards, scientific uncertainties to change conclusion of original assessment

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns about negative health risks of GMOs and glyphosate, pointing to IARC's review of its carcinogenicity

Interview: Argentinian publication Marcha interviews Julián Galeano of Todos Los 25 Hasta Que Vaya Monsanto, part of Multisectorial Against the Monsanto Seed Law, warns the seed law would make exchanging or reusing seeds illegal

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 regional reporting on the African Development Bank's promotion of its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation program.

- In a statement on Friday, African Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina announced that the finance group would be re-launching its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program. Adesina emphasized the role that regional seed delivery platforms would play in breaking down investment barriers. The news release included statements from officials with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. **See more**
- University of Florida researchers announced the results of a new survey, which found that American consumers see non-GMO labels and organic labels as synonymous and put an equivalent price premium on those products. Researchers added that consumers involved in the study were unlikely to scan a QR code to determine whether foods contained GM ingredients, but those who did scan the code were likely to pay more for GM foods. **See more**

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North America

Embargoed release (Oct. 24): University of California San Diego promotes study finding human exposure to glyphosate has increased since introduction of genetically modified crops, noting California listed the herbicide as a carcinogen

Embargoed release (Oct. 24): Journal of the American Medical Association network announces University of California San Diego study finding higher levels of glyphosate in human urine last year than in 1993; authors claim possible adverse health effects from dietary intake

News release: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences announces recent study led by IFAS Brandon McFadden and Perdue University agricultural economics professor Jayson Lusk, which found that consumers see "organic" and "non-GMO" food labels as synonymous

News: Farm Journal reports on recent Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium, where DuPont's Neal Gutterson highlighted potential benefits and current developments in CRISPR-Cas9 technology, he noted explaining the technology to the general public will take a great deal of care

News: Ohio news outlet reports on Ohio State University scientists' development of "Insect Allies," using crop pests such as aphids to transfer viruses into the plant to initiate protection from an acute stressor such as drought, USDA geneticist Peg Redinbaugh noted it will not replace need to breed stress-resistant crops

More North America items

Africa

News release: African Development Bank (AfDB) announces launch of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, announced by President Akinwumi Adesina on sidelines of World Food Prize 2017 event, to be implemented via implemented through a collectively agreed central delivery platform

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on African Development Bank's (AfDB) launch of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, guaranteeing additional 513 million tons of food for African countries, announced by AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina at World Food Prize 2017 side event

News release: African Development Bank (AfDB) announces partnership between World Food Prize Foundation and AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina to establish World Food Prize Africa Institute, following awarding of 2017 World Food Prize to Adesina, with goal of funding African youth in agriculture

Interview: The Guardian (Nigeria) interviews African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwunmi Adesina on sidelines of World Food Prize 2017 events, he emphasizes importance of viewing agriculture as a business, promotes Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, emphasizes importance of mass sensitization following passage of biosafety law, noting Ministry of science technology and innovation and others can now roll out programs to educate the public and train extension workers on biotech

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports two Maharashtra state-run universities will begin hybrid Bt cotton seed production in 2018, highlights agriculture officials' assessment that Bt cotton seeds provided by private companies have not proven very effective, and seeking compensation is getting complicated

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes government for violating food safety laws by allowing entry of GM canola and soybean oils for human consumption, pointing to information brought to light in recent court case in which activist Aruna Rodrigues asked for imports to banned or for GM products to be clearly labeled

More Asia items

Europe

News: Green Party MEPs table motion calling on the European Commission to withdraw draft approvals for GM oilseed rape varieties ending new risk assessments; similar motions for maize and soy also tabled

News: Food Navigator reports on debate over whether products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR should be regulated as GMOs, EU Green Party, Greenpeace and European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER) support application of current GMO regulations for such products

News release: Oxfam France, Action Against Hunger, Secours Catholique Caritas France and Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF), supported by CCFD-Terre Solidaire, decided to leave General States of Food, criticizing government's support of G7's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

News: Le Monde reports four NGOs, Oxfam France, Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Caritas and Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF), slam door on General Estates of Food, criticizing government's partnership with G7, arguing it is promoted by large agribusiness companies, endangering African peasant farmers

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Dominican Republic news outlet contributor claims food has changed since Monsanto began promoting GMOs, links GMOs to rise in rates of several health disorders and diseases, such as cancer

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns readers about threat posed by transgenic foods, claims multinational companies such as Monsanto, Aventis, Syngenta, Basf and DuPont seek to use transgenic products to control the exploding global population, points to high risk of negative health effects

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian food processing news site reports on U.S. release of non-browning Arctic apples, highlighting goals of tackling obesity, by encouraging fresh fruit consumption, and reducing food waste, highlights Okanagan Specialty Fruits' emphasis of nutritional value of the apples

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 23, 2017
Date: Monday, October 23, 2017 4:36:45 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

With a European Commission committee planning to vote this week on the future of glyphosate in Europe, another round of reporting has revealed new details about the International Agency for Research on Cancer's review claiming the herbicide could cause cancer. Kate Kelland of *Reuters* reported that 10 significant changes - including editing out "multiple scientists' conclusions that their studies found no link between glyphosate and cancer in laboratory animals" - were made to IARC's draft before it was released. All skewed the paper toward the outlier conclusion that glyphosate could be carcinogenic. Kelland's article can be read here, and reaction can be found in the Stories Worth Sharing section.

The past week also featured new examinations noting the recent study finding neonics in honey should not be of concern because the levels are too low to do any harm, along with coverage and stakeholder commentary on the World Food Prize and other World Food Day events.

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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: GMWatch

Recent news reports suggesting International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph reports on glyphosate were manipulated by activist

Stories Worth Sharing

Matt Ridley: Movement against glyphosate is a "shame on science" as the herbicide has huge environmental benefits

David Zaruk: Six reasons why IARC chief should be fired over glyphosate assessment

Julie Kelly: Global food crisis could be at hand if Europe bans glyphosate and U.S. follows suit

Geoffrey Kabat: "Substantial financial rewards" at stake in debate over glyphosate safety riddled with conflicts of interests

Hank Campbell: Study finding neonics in honey follows familiar activist science playbook

Science 2.0: Scary sounding study about pesticide in honey featured levels "too low to biologically make a difference"

Robert Domoguen: "Absurd" to oppose practical and beneficial discoveries such as Golden Rice

Michelle Miller: Advice from anti-pesticide activist groups like Center for Food Safety can actually make you sick

participants with undisclosed conflicts of interest have been met with aggressive reputation attacks on those news organizations, reporters and commentators writing on the subject.

One particularly aggressive group is an informal U.K.-based anti-GMO group known as GMWatch. GMWatch has come to the defense of IARC and glyphosate lawsuit expert witnesses by claiming news sources including *Reuters* are under the control and influence of big agribusinesses like Monsanto.

Learn more about GMWatch HERE.

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Shenggen Fan: Grow more food with less water, less energy and less land by using biotechnology

Kevin Folta: Discredited Seralini rat study is the "zombie of the food activist world"

Giovanni Tagliabue: Explaining to a rational alien the legal persecution of genetically modified petunias

Tirzah Duren: "Poor bear the brunt" of anti-GMO movement's false glyphosate claims

Stephan Neidenbach: Amazon review policy for "Whitewash" glyphosate book raises questions about link to Whole Foods

The Observer: Disease-resistant potatoes could go on sale in Uganda in 2020 as country's first commercialized GM crop

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What's Trending?

European Parliament environment committee approves non-binding resolution calling for glyphosate phase-out by 2020

Study at German nature reserves concludes insect population dropped by more than 75 percent; researchers imply pesticides to blame

Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health targets action against pesticides and endocrine disruptors

World Food Prize recipient pledges to set up fund benefiting African youth in agriculture

Calendar highlights

October 23-25	October 24	October 25
Thirteenth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention	Biotech Roundtable: Genetic Editing in Ag Biotech	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed considers glyphosate reauthorization
October 25-27	**October 25**	**October 31-November 1**
International Food Policy Research Institute conference on climate-smart agriculture	First Agroecology Europe Forum	British Crop Production Council Congress

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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 highlights over the weekend included:

- The French publication *Agrisalon* reported the EU Court of Justice heard arguments Oct. 3 in a case to decide whether products generated using mutagenesis should be treated as GMOs. The court will issue its decision Dec. 20. **See more**
- The World Food Prize was awarded to the African Development Bank's Akinwumi Adesina, who announced he would use the $250,000 award to set up a fund benefiting African youth in agriculture. The event also highlighted potential uses for gene editing, such as reducing aflatoxin in corn. **See more**
- The *Boulder Daily Camera* reported staff will make recommendations Tuesday (Oct. 24) to the Boulder (Colorado) County Commission regarding transitioning away from GM crops. A letter to the editor and an op-ed pointed out that a GMO ban goes against science on the matter and is contrary to the commission's stated objectives. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Middle school teacher Stephan Neidenbach notes his review of USRTK activist Carey Gilliam's book was removed without explanation from Amazon despite lack of personal attacks; notes reviews from Gillam's boss, Vani Hari, NYT reporter remained on the site despite failure to disclose relationships in violation of Amazon, NYT policy; asks how this looks given Amazon's Whole Foods

Commentary: March Against Monsanto contributor warns readers about release of Arctic Apple in US stores this fall, claims silencing browning genes may lead to increased susceptibility of the plant to diseases and insects, points to potential health impacts and effects on bees

Commentary: GMO.news contributor amplifies Science Daily's reporting on discovery that GE mosquitoes are successfully mating with wild mosquitoes, and Scientific American's 2010 coverage of spread of GM canola traits into the wild, claims these cases provide proof that GMOs cannot be contained

Commentary: Non-GMO Project says non-GM animal feed is "key to a non-GMO future," notes 60 percent of GMOs grown is for animal feed, says herbicide-tolerant GMOs "have serious consequences" on environment, food system

News release: American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall voices support of timely coordinated federal review of advances in ag biotech to help farmers and ranchers gain efficiency and productivity, in response to recent bipartisan letter from 79 House members calling for science-based ag biotech regulations
News: CNN reports on development of method to produce cheaper cancer drugs using GM chicken eggs by Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), National

Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Cosmo Bio, designing them to produceÂ interferon beta protein, usually very costly

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian environment news outlet reports on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (NBBC) Secretary Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu's recent statement that biotech will help address rise in pest and disease challenging Nigerian crops, and that stacked traits will address both farmers' and consumers' needs

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features Patricia Nanteza of Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) in discussion of biotech solutions to banana bacterial wilt, and Clet Masiga of Tropical Institute of Development Innovation on needs of Ugandan farmers

Study: AFSA releases study on amplifying agroecology as it relates to policies, frameworks in African nations

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor amplifies Global Prolife Association Chairman Philip Njemanze's claims about health risks of GM cowpeas, linking it to kidney and liver damage and other health disorders, calls on government and National Assembly to review its release

News: Pan-African news outlet reports on farmers and other interest groups' celebration of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, farmer Joseph Katushabe noted the law will enable use of modern technology to combat drought and disease, boosting yields

More Africa items

Asia

News: CNN reports on development of method to produce cheaper cancer drugs using GM chicken eggs by Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), National Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Cosmo Bio, designing them to produce interferon beta protein, usually very costly

News: Textile industry news publication, Sourcing Journal, reports on Pakistan's Punjab University's signing of memorandum of understanding to provide disease-resistant GM cotton seed to farmers through seven multinational companies, highlights opposition to GM cotton by UK-based Soil Association

News: The Times of India reports head of state ag task force wants probe into unapproved herbicide-resistant (HT) cotton seeds being planted in several regions, alleges complicity of state agencies and manufacturers of GM seeds, claims herbicides used excessively to kill weeds in fields where illegal HT seeds planted

News release: Syngenta announces renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USAID to support ag and food security activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with focus on improving capacity of smallholder farmers to trial, adopt and safely use inputs to boost yields

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Sustainability Council of New Zealand's submission on synbio to Convention on Biological Diversity, praising elements of its Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act as an example of good governance of GMOs, gene editing and synbio, calls for strengthening of international regulations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM compares ISAAA data on GM crop adoption with data from

various government agencies, highlighting data on GM crop adoption by region and country over the past several years

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes Spain's request that EU Commission grant authorization to transform recently discovered unauthorized GM cotton seeds into products intended for animal or human food, as such products are currently allowed on EU market, but the seeds are not

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports study finds GM soy affects amphibian development, digestive system, and blood

Commentary: Pharmaceutical professor writes for Brazilian news site, says great care is taken to ensure GM crops are safe for consumers, environment; differentiates gene-edited crops from transgenic crops, says gene-edited food may not require labels

News: Brazilian news outlet profiles agronomist Elibio Rech, researcher at Center for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology at Embrapa, highlights his work on gene editing, especially to control drought resistance in crops, as well as his work on applications for human health

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on efforts by Ministry of Health and Ecuadorian Institute of Normalization (INEN) to help consumers make informed decisions about GMOs, highlights INEN's Technical Regulation to require labeling of products mad up of over 0.9 percent GM ingredients

News: Argentinian news site reports Monsanto invests in seed plant in Buenos Aires province to replace one the company planned in Cordoba, which was abandoned due to protests

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Amway statement says it's committed to natural ingredients and committed to being a non-GMO brand

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Sustainability Council of New Zealand's submission on synbio to Convention on Biological Diversity, praising elements of its Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act as an example of good governance of GMOs, gene editing and synbio, calls for strengthening of international regulations

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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 commentary highlighted the events around the World Food Prize award ceremony and the Borlaug Dialogue. Elsewhere, controversy over illegally cultivated cotton varieties in India continued. European stakeholders highlighted the ongoing discussion over new plant breeding techniques.

- Civil society groups, government officials and other groups working on agricultural issues continued to amplify the discussion and events of the Borlaug Dialogues taking place in Iowa through Friday (Oct. 20). Statements from officials with the Gates Foundation, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and from the Nigerian president all highlighted the work of World Food Prize laureate Akinwumi Adesina. Separate commentary from the U.S. Agency for International Development highlighted a new program to address the threat of Africa's fall armyworm infestation. Organic Consumers Association continued to criticize the participants for taking an "industrial" approach to food security. **See more**

- Indian officials in Telangana denied reports that they had ignored the illegal cultivation of an herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton variety, stating that they had warned federal officials and were waiting for a response. Similarly, Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech told *The Times of India* that it had filed notices about the illegal cultivation in 2008 but that agriculture officials had decided not to address the problem. **See more**

- The European Academies Science Advisory Council announced the conclusion of its Oct. 11-13 meeting to review the policy implications of genome editing techniques. While the conference covered a wide range of applications, including medical and industrial uses, the potential uses in plant and animal agriculture were a central theme in discussions on regulation. *Euractiv* highlighted Green MEP recommendations on new plant breeding techniques, while the European Commission's CORDIS issued a results pack on regulating agricultural biotechnology. **See more**

- News outlets in Portugal previewed parliamentary discussions scheduled for Friday (Oct. 20) over whether to require restaurants to label foods made with GMO ingredients. **See more**

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North America

News release: During World Food Prize address, USAID administrator calls on private sector, universities, research centers, other partners to help fight fall armyworm, which threatens to cause humanitarian crisis in Africa due to crop failures

News: Farming news site reports during World Food Prize presentation, Jayson Lusk shares 3 challenges in communicating with public, including growing divergence between eaters and growers, different food preferences of rich and poor

News: Successful Farming reports panel of growers at World Food Prize event in Des Moines, Iowa, recommends four ways to effectively advocate for farmers, including communication training, noting that 2017 WFP Laureate Motlatsi Musi of South Africa says anti-GMO activists better at proactive approaches

Commentary: OCA's Katherine Paul criticizes World Food Prize, says it glorifies "degenerative agriculture," which "kills healthy soil life," pollutes water, contaminates food with pesticide

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs satirical piece by Italian researcher about controversy over GM flowers, imagining dialogue between "rational alien" and "state officer" whose job it is to locate and destroy GMO seeds and flowers, pointing to media reports that sensationalize claims by anti-GMO activists

Review: Elementa Science of the Anthropocene review article from Tyrone Hayes "From silent spring to silent night: Agrochemicals and the Anthropocene" asserts need to adopt integrated practices that reduce pesticide, fertilizer use in ag, and decouple agrichemical and seed industries

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Global Farmer Network profiles South African farmer receiving Kleckner award for his leadership in ag-biotech advocacy, illustrating how the technology helped him out of poverty

Commentary: La Via Campesina notes 2017 Right to Food and Nutrition Watch report details struggles, efforts of small farmers, social movements to solve world food crisis by resisting pesticide use, land sales to corporations

Commentary: Blogger on religion site Patheos argues pro-science supporters of Ugandan GM crop adoption fail to understand scientific progress in cultural and economic context, and instead blame opposition on pseudoscientific propaganda, voices concerns about link between science and corporate interests at expense of farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Telangana Ag Commissioner C Parthasarathy's statement that they have submitted a report to the Centre about illegal GM cotton cultivation, State Seed Certification Agency director K Keshavalu noted the state will only take action when the Centre approves it legally, and then violations can be monitored

News: Times of India reports Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech India informed Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) about illegal sale and cultivation of herbicide-tolerant GM cotton in 2008, but government "chose to sleep over it," MMB called for immediate legal action at the time

Commentary: Pakistani policy analyst insinuates US is behind supposed rise of GM poppy plants, source of heroin, in Afghanistan, questioning whether Taliban has technical expertise to use biotechnology

News: Financial Times reports on head of ChemChina rival Sinochem, Frank Ning's recent statement that GMO adoption in China will come very slowly, in spite of expectation that ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta would accelerate the process, highlights concerns about national security and environment

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Portugal culture and lifestyle blog reports Parliament will discuss bill (Oct. 20) proposed by local anti-GMO group calling for restaurants to disclose use of GMOs on menus, undergo annual review of compliance

Commentary: Editorial in EU Commission publication entitled "Exploiting opportunities and addressing the challenges of biotech in the Agri-Food sector" emphasizes need for in-depth knowledge of impacts of new technologies, as well as transparent and accurate communication of scientific and technological advances

News release: European Academies Science Advisory Council, InterAcademy Partnership genome editing workshop unites science, policy experts in push for int'l, transparent dialogue benefits, security issues connected to gene technology

News: EurActiv reports EU Green Party wants Commission to make traceability and safety paramount in biotech legal framework

Commentary: Via Campesina announces publication of paper listing 12 reasons to regulate new breeding techniques, including

News release: Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences launch evidence review group to gather science to evaluate risks and opportunities of gene technology in Swiss agriculture

Commentary: Swiss Alliance for Agriculture without Genetic Engineering says Swiss national science academy's gene technology review group may signal shift in agency's decision-making from political to science-based

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming support meeting for seven Volunteer Reapers summoned to court for vandalizing products containing glyphosate

News: U.K. farming news site reports Rothamsted Research chief executive says GM food is not the answer for UK's food security due to fierce opposition; says answer lies with gene editing

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news site runs op-ed touting benefits of GM soybeans for country's economy, citing study by economist, asserting GE crops don't harm human health and are friendly to environment

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on Chamber of Small Producers of the East's assessment that 4,000 hectares in Cuatro Cañadas illegally use GMOs, Freddy Suárez of Agricultural Chamber of the East regretted illegal use, called on government to regulate the technology, government has yet to respond

News: Universidade de São Paulo news publication reports on opinions of two professors on GMO labeling controversy, Professor Flavio Finardi Filho emphasizes that GMOs are safe for humans, and that any labels should be factual and not alarmist, while Patricia Jaime argues consumers have a right to information

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 ongoing controversy over reports that Indian farmers are cultivating an unapproved, herbicide-tolerant cotton variety. U.S. lawmakers called for a "consistent, appropriate" regulatory system on agricultural biotechnology.

- *The Times of India* featured several new statements responding to reports that farmers in India were planting an herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton variety that had not been approved by regulators. South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) told the outlet that the black market for this trait was worth more than $7.3 million. In a separate report, the newspaper reported that Monsanto officials had categorically denied accusations that the company was involved in the proliferation of the seeds. Writing for *Indo-Asian News Service*, ag commentator Vivian Fernandes argued that farmers were demanding new traits despite a regulatory environment that undermined research. **See more**

- U.S. news outlets and industry stakeholders reported that a bipartisan group of representatives had called on officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency to modernize the country's regulation of biotechnology. The lawmakers pointed to current draft guidance from USDA and FDA, warning that the proposals offered inconsistent guidance that didn't reflect current science. In separate statements, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization and the American Farm Bureau Federation announced their support for a forward-looking approach to new technologies such as gene editing. **See more**

- Activist group Organic Consumers Association previewed its "Occupy the World Food Prize" event scheduled for Thursday (Oct. 19) in Iowa. The group boasted that protesters would be situated near attendees of the meeting following an activist lawsuit against city managers. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Campaign: Rep. Neal Dunn of House Ag Committee and several other lawmakers write letter to Ag Secretary Perdue, EPA Administrator Pruitt and FDA Commissioner Gottlieb, calling for science-based, uniform updates to regulations on biotech and gene editing, with goal of providing certainty to international trade partners

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association urges supporters to participate in Occupy the World Food Prize Rally on Oct. 19, on Iowa State Capitol lawn, claims goals of this year's winner, Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina of African Development Bank, support Monsanto shareholders while harming African biodiversity and food sovereignty

News: Bloomberg reports on Global Harvest Initiative annual study on agricultural productivity growth; report authors say 1.24 percent growth rate won't meet future food needs, highlight role of ag technology

Announcement: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity announces NGO representatives who will receive funding to attend Montreal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (Dec. 13-16)

News release: Office of the United States Trade Representative announces conclusion of fourth round of renegotiation of NAFTA, says discussions in Chapter on Competition substantively completed, Mexico to host fifth round of talks Nov. 17-21 in Mexico City

News: Politico Pro reports NAFTA talks hit impasse as Canada and Mexico team up to block controversial U.S. proposals, with top U.S. trade negotiator accusing partner nations of being obstructionist, unwilling to negotiate amid Trump's threats to withdraw from agreement altogether

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor highlights evidence that Nigeria is still far from achieving food security, amplifies speeches at National Agricultural Show and World Food Day 2017, including All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) National President Architect Kabiru Ibrahim's call on Nigeria to embrace biotech

Commentary: Tsakasile Dlamini of Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Swaziland Country writes for African Centre for Biodiversity, warning about pressure on Swaziland to adopt GMOs, points to dangers of the technology, highlights PELUM's efforts to oppose its introduction

News release: In observation of World Food Day, Global Prolife Alliance voices opposition to GM Bt cowpea under development in Nigeria, claims it is "GMO poison" that will be fed to unsuspecting Nigerian public, criticizes government for allowing companies like Monsanto to engage in "biological colonialism"

Commentary: Ugandan lawyer writes for local news outlet, questions whether GMOs are really the silver bullet to end hunger, acknowledges importance of biotech, but wonders whether passage of biosafety bill will be beneficial to Uganda, pointing to problems with food transport network and farmers' access to only rudimentary tools

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Kachwekano Zonal Agriculture Research Institute director Alex Barekye's announcement of biotech research on disease-resistant potatoes, with three field trials conducted thus far, noting it will likely be the first GM crop to be commercialized in Uganda

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on chairman of Parliament's Government Assurances Committee, Yaw Addo Frimpong's call for tax increase to fund science and technology research, especially in ag sector, MP Kwasi Etu Bonde advocated passage of Plant Breeders' Bill to ensure resources for research funding

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on illegal cultivation of BG-III GM cotton, referred to as Chor Bt locally, the variety developed by Monsanto is not approved by the government, but its use is an "open secret" in Vidarbha's cotton belt

News: The Times of India reports Maharashtra government task force claims pesticide companies selling products without safety information, blaming Syngenta, Monsanto, Bayer, others for farmer deaths due to pesticide poisoning, alleging Monsanto involved in illegal sale of herbicide-resistant cotton seeds

News: Times of India reports on Monsanto's denial of accusations that it is involved in selling unauthorized herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds in the country, brought by Vasantrao Naik Swawalamban Mission (VNSSM) chairman Kishore Tiwari, Monsanto noted it does not stand to gain anything from sale of illegal seeds

News: Times of India reports on South Asia Biotechnology Centre's (SABC) assessment that market for illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton is worth about Rs472 crore, the NGO called on government to locate and destroy illegal hybrid seeds production plots, warning about potential negative impact on weed

resistance management

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture examines government's handling of reports of illegal Bt cotton cultivation, pointing to launch of investigation, followed by its withdrawal, and then launch of a new one, argues government attitude towards intellectual property is hostile to trait developers

Commentary: Mongabay Indonesia runs op-ed by adviser with USAID program touting food sovereignty, use of local varieties of food crops as way for nation to boost resilience to climate change

News: Pakistan Observer reports on Punjab University's signing of memorandum of understanding to provide farmers with disease-resistant GM cotton through seven multinational companies nationwide, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zafar Moeen Nasir noted the university-developed variety would boost economy by $4 billion

More Asia items

Europe

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service annual GAIN Report on agricultural biotechnology in Netherlands highlights Dutch proposal to regulate plants derived from innovative biotech and government decision to sign EU Soya Declaration

News release: German Green MEP Maria Heubuch hopes EU Court of Justice will rule that new breeding techniques are just genetic engineering in a new way, warns agrarian farmers will push EU Commission to amend GE laws to exempt new techniques, which she claims pose serious environmental risks

Commentary: Ahead of Czech Parliamentary elections, natural scientist Zdenek Opatrný writes for local news outlet, examines positions of various parties and candidates on biotech, points out flaws in "save the bees" messaging, noting GM crops reduce pesticide use, notes GM imports are necessary for animal feed

Commentary: Inf'OGM contributor reports Czech Republic did not plant any GM crops this year, after steady decrease from 8,380 hectares planted in 2008, notes number of countries growing GM crops decreases each year

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentinian radio outlet reports discussion on amendment to seed law resumed in National Congress, with meeting called by Commission of Agriculture and Livestock, highlights opposition from Multisectoral "No to the Monsanto seed law" to intellectual property rights on seeds

News: Argentinian news source reports Monsanto officials unveil project to build high-tech lab for plant near Buenos Aires; Monsanto Argentina's seed operations leader says goal to produce best corn seed in market

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Horticulture Innovation Australia's commissioning of study to investigate acceptance of new breeding technologies in local industry, Murdoch University Plant Sciences professor Michael Jones noted U.S. release of Arctic Apple will serve as a litmus test for consumer acceptance

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 previews of this week's Borlaug Dialogues and World Food Prize. In India, the state of Andhra Pradesh launched an investigation into the cultivation of unauthorized GM cotton varieties. Nigerian news outlets reported on local workshops where officials described potential GM cowpea benefits.

- Several organizations previewed themes and events scheduled for the upcoming Borlaug Dialogues in Iowa (Oct. 18-20). The African Development Bank Group promoted a speech given by this year's World Food Prize winner highlighting the agricultural potential of Africa. The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) announced that former president Jayson Lusk would be recognized with the Borlaug CAST Communication Award. Anti-corporate activists Community Alliance for Global Justice criticized the upcoming World Food Prize events and called for a Food Week of Action through Sunday to highlight the role of grassroots farming. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported that, after conflicting accounts last week, Andhra Pradesh confirmed that it will form an investigative panel to determine how a significant portion of cotton acreage acquired and planted an unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton variety. The three-member panel has been asked to submit a report by the end of October. **See more**
- Nigerian news outlets reported on the conclusion of field trials for a pod-borer resistant cowpea, announced during a seed industry outreach event in Abuja. *Leadership* and *Daily Trust* highlighted supportive statements from the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, the National Agriculture Seed Council and other stakeholders. In Kano, *News Agency of Nigeria* reported on the National Agricultural Research System's assurances that the "pbr cowpea" was safe for human and animal consumption. **See more**

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North America

News release: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association announces past president Jayson Lusk to receive Borlaug CAST Communication Award at World Food Prize for his reporting on food-ag economics

News release: Community Alliance for Global Justice condemns World Food Prize in promotion of NGO's AGRA Watch campaign, dinner (Oct. 21) that will unite attendees to send message to Gates Foundation/ag industry that food sovereignty is world hunger solution

Commentary: Honoring Int'l Poverty Eradication Day, IFPRI research fellows promote new IFPRI study finding strong links between CGIAR initiatives and increased ag productivity in developing nations, emphasize need for continue CGIAR support

News: Inside Higher Ed reports Kevin Folta's libel suit against The New York Times and reporter for describing him as paid Monsanto operative, which led to him receiving death threats; suit alleges article serves to silence other "honest" scientists for fear of similar fate

Commentary: Website focused on media bias amplifies Gainesville Sun article on Florida scientist's libel suit against the New York Times, notes no trial date yet set

Campaign: U.S. Right to Know seeks a reporter to help expand its work reaching out to consumers and policymakers about the food system, ideal candidate will be "skilled in the preparation of FOIA requests, and the development of sources inside companies, legislatures and regulatory agencies"

More North America items

Africa

News release: Africa Development Bank promotes president and World Food Prize winner's Norman Borlaug Lecture, highlights potential of Africa's underutilized land

News: Ugandan news source reports World Food Day celebrated in Kabarole district with call for revival of traditional foods, farmers speak out against National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 before Parliament

News: Nigeria news source reports president of All Farmers Association of Nigeria calls on federal government to ensure increased participation by farmers in formulation of ag policies, urges country to embrace biotechnology, genetic engineering, crop intensification

News: The Nation reports president of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria urges federal government to invest heavily in biotech to achieve food security, avert impending global food crisis

News: New Agency of Nigeria reports on NGO Every Woman Hope Centre's (EWHC) call on Nigerian scientists and stakeholders to handle GMO issue with scientifically proven information, executive director Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu labeled spread of misinformation as an "embarrassment" for Nigeria

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent sensitization workshop organized by National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) and African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) and supported by other industry groups, with goal of educating seed companies ahead of Bt cowpea and cotton commercialization

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National Agricultural Research System's (NARS) certification that pod borer resistant Bt cowpea is safe for humans and environment, principal investigator Mohammed Ishiyaku noted it will save Nigeria N16 billion in chemical spending

Commentary: Writing for French news site, Mali citizen claims GM crops have short shelf-life post-harvest, are causing disease in Mali consumers, problems for producers who cannot conserve crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports India's Andhra Pradesh launches investigation into illegal planting of Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex GM cotton variety, after a similar order for field inspections was withdrawn, Monsanto India voiced "grave concern" at seed companies' use of the technology for profit

News: Times of India reports on Maharashtra state Agriculture Minister Pandurang Fundkar's call for ban on sale of unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds, following tests by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CIRC) revealing that the seeds are being sold and cultivated in the state

News: National Geographic Indonesia posts Voice of America report on new research described in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on method for genetically engineering corn to produce amino acid methionine, commonly found in meat, which could add to grain's nutritional value, make corn more efficient as animal feed

News: Indonesian news source reports groups representing women and fishing industry urge government on World Food Day 2017 to stand up for ideals of food sovereignty, claiming government policies have threatened farmers and fishermen

Commentary: ELLE Vietnam profiles various farms using organic and "natural agriculture" methods,

highlights Bill Ahrens of New Country Organic Farm, whose focus is on sustainable agriculture to avoid dangers of GM foods

Commentary: Robert Domoguen continues three-part series in SunStar supporting golden rice in the Philippines, hoping to create an objective and correct awareness of the crop, argues those who oppose golden rice simply because it is a GMO are not helpful in the debate

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on controversy surrounding government plans to incentivize farmers to produce more Bt eggplant, opposed by environmental activists, who claim government has failed to conduct health and environmental assessments, and violated Convention on Biological Diversity and Cartegena Protocol

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on Italian MEP Paolo De Castro's remarks at recent conference on Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture, arguing that products of new breeding techniques should not be regulated as GMOs, calling for development of a broad legal framework to enable farmers to produce more with less

Commentary: In speech to G7 ag ministers, Slow Food president criticizes agriculture industry consolidation and calls for coordinated policy to support smallholder farmers

Commentary: European Seed Association promotes Seventh Session of the Governing Body of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from Oct. 30 - Nov. 3 in Kigali, highlighting goal of conserving plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

News: Bosnian news source reports Food Safety Agency approves company's request to sell GM soy-based animal feed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 35th company allowed to do so; GMO Council official calls for labeling of GMO products

Commentary: Turkish news source runs column by president of local chamber of agriculture citing Turkish study on GMOs and community health, claiming consumption of GM food additive "L-Tryptophan" caused consumers to suffer from muscle disorders, stroke, neurological and heart problems, and autoimmune disorders

News: French news source reports dairy company Ingredia and WWF France foundation launch "Via Lacta," project to produce "eco-responsible" milk guaranteed to be GMO-free in Arras region; project guarantees no GMOs in diet of dairy cows used, with about 100 livestock breeders involved

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming Alimenterre festival organized by Biocoop Lou Coussu and the association L'Embobineuse with goal of promoting environmentally-friendly agriculture, former INRA research director Jean-Pierre Berland will moderate debate on GMOs

News: Dutch ag news site reports on Commission for Genetic Modification's (COGEM) assessment that environmental risks posed by import and processing of GM maize variety MZIR098 are negligible, noting sprouting of maize plants has not been observed in the Netherlands, and there are no wild relatives

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Chilean news outlet contributor claims Nagoya Protocol is a threat to food sovereignty and biodiversity, voices support of La Via Campesina's Day of Food Sovereignty initiative, highlighting opposition to free trade agreements and patents on seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Weekly Times reporter highlights disconnect between Australia's GM crop import approvals versus cultivation approvals, quotes CropLife Australia, Victorian Farmers Federation execs on need for reduced regulation

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 16, 2017
Date: Monday, October 16, 2017 9:05:38 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 several NGO statements highlighting World Food Day. Two activist groups issued reports today criticizing Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto.

- Several commercial, NGO and government stakeholders issues statements in support of World Food Day, many of which highlighted the role of biotechnology in food security and resilience. News releases and commentary from CropLife Asia, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization emphasized the role of technology in ensuring food production. **See more**
- Anti-biotechnology activist groups La Via Campesina and ETC Group issued new reports criticizing so-called industrial food systems and calling for a return to peasant-led agriculture. Among other items, ETC Group and La Via Campesina both highlighted the importance of supporting smallholder-developed seed varieties - rather than commercially bred seed - through government subsidies and other investments. (**La Via Campesina report**) (**ETC Group report**)
- European activist groups WeMove.eu, SumOfUs, Friends of the Earth Europe, Corporate Europe Observatory and Food and Water Europe issued a statement announcing a new report that claimed Bayer's purchase of Monsanto would undermine rural livelihoods and environmental protections. The report was prepared by researchers with University College London. Similarly, a report from the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) argued that industry consolidation would exacerbate companies' emphasis on seeking short-term profits at the expense of long-term sustainability. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Ohio agriculture columnist calls for science education to address public's food phobias, including use of GMO-free labels, pointing out GMO salmon safer for human consumption than wild-caught salmon, arguing genetic engineering led to development of safer insulin, treatments for other health problems

Interview: Wall Street Journal interviews Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant and DowDuPont Agriculture Division COO James C. Collins Jr. on advances in data science and gene editing, both explain how the new technologies will boost food production and farm efficiency, they argue products of gene editing could occur in nature

News: Organic Authority reports on Ben & Jerry's announcement that it will launch an organic line following recent European survey which found traces of the herbicide in ice cream samples, the company will advocate policies to end pre-harvest glyphosate treatments

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on conclusion of GM cowpea field trials, with plans for market release in 2018, lead researcher Mohammed Ishiyaku emphasized absolute safety of GM foods at recent sensitization workshop, noted trials demonstrated increased yield and protection from pod borer

Commentary: Million Belay of Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity, highlights recent participation in international meetings with focus on transformation and sustainability, including food system transformation, pointing to negative impacts of industrial ag practices

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes report entitled "GM cotton in Africa: Battleground between Chinese and US capital," argues promises of boosted yield will not help smallholders, noting they already receive low prices for what they produce, examines impact of agribusiness mergers

News: Africa Science News reports students from eight Kenyan universities celebrate World Food Day 2017 by urging government to promote ecological farming practices; forum supported by Greenpeace Africa argues ecological farming doesn't contaminate environment with chemical inputs or use GMOs

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on former Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Prof. Walter Alhassan's assessment that recent EU Court of Justice ruling against Italy's GM crop ban demonstrates lack of safety concerns with the technology, vindicates Ghana's policy position

News release: La Via Campesina announces publication of new report to mark International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against Transnational Corporations, entitled "Struggles of La Vía Campesina for Agrarian Reform and the Defense of life, Land and Territories"

News: French language African news outlet reports on Kenya's preparation to introduce GMOs, according to Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Willy Bett, highlights several crop varieties under development, Kenya Small Farmers' Forum (FPFK) opposes GMOs, pointing to health risks and dissemination of Monsanto seeds

More Africa items

Asia

News release: CropLife Asia commends UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on occasion of World Food Day 2017, for its efforts to increase awareness of need for food security, notes crop protection products help reduce rice and maize harvest losses by 40 percent each year, and biotech crops reduce carbon emisisons

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Blogger for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Member States' recent adoption of EU Commission's revision to environmental risk assessment, arguing it fails to make any notable progress on environmental risks of GMOs, points out that many assessments are carried out by companies themselves

News: Le Marche region of Italy played prominent role in drafting decree approved by the Regions to support implementation of a National Monitoring Plan on GMOs, Agriculture Councilor Anna Casini highlighted controls in place to ensure that land and products are kept GMO-free

Commentary: Contributor for French news outlet Humanite et Biodiversite amplifies Stephane Foucart's recent article in Le Monde, highlights examination of study which found that use of transgenic vine rootstocks had no negative impact on soil microorganisms

Commentary: Mediaplanet site runs op-ed by IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan reflecting on World Food Day, noting global hunger levels rising, calling for acceptance of biotechnology and genetic engineering that face hurdles from regulations, restrictions and consumer rejection, highlighting IFPRI's

annual Global Hunger Index

News release: WeMove Europe promotes new study from University College London suggesting proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger should be blocked under EU competition law because it reduces competition, raises prices and farmer dependency, stifles alternative businesses, and because asset selling won't solve crisis

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on academics' reactions to study showing over 90 percent of tortillas consumed in the country contain transgenic maize, researcher Luis Herrera Estrella noted the study confirms what had been long expected, argues it falls short in not detailing how much GM maize was detected, noting tests are highly sensitive

News: Texoco, Mexico publication reports on recent National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) study which found that 90 percent of tortillas consumed in the country contain transgenic maize as well as traces of the "highly carcinogenic" glyphosate, reports tortilla producers often do not know where their corn is coming from

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 16, 2017
Date: Monday, October 16, 2017 3 59:38 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As European lawmakers gathered last week to discuss the so-called "Monsanto Papers" documents, David Zaruk detailed on his blog the revelations from a deposition of Chris Portier, the former NIEHS-turned-Environmental Defense Fund scientist who became the central figure in a push for glyphosate bans and lawsuits. Among them, Portier admitted to negotiating a lucrative consulting contract with litigators just as the International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph he helped to craft was being released.

Zaruk's piece examines how little attention has been paid to "class-action-driven" law firms like the ones Portier agreed to help, and how Portier's work is exactly what he accuses Monsanto and industry figures of doing.

It is included below, along with articles on topics such as genetically engineered tomatoes and a company's decision to ditch non-GMO labels so as not to perpetuate fear.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you still need 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: Christopher Portier

New details from a deposition reveal that Christopher Portier made a quick turnaround to negotiate a litigation consulting contract after the release of the

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: Deposition shows Portier signed lucrative contract as litigation consultant same week IARC glyphosate report was released

Paul McDivitt: Genetically engineered tomato could eliminate bacterial spot disease, but commercial partner is needed

Rothamsted, Syngenta scientists conclude in scientific review that GM crops are "essential to avert future food shortages"

Julie Kelly: Congress should investigate sale of "phony organic food"

PR Week: Mann's removing non-GMO labels to stop "perpetuating a fear that something is wrong with GMOs"

Tim Barker: University of Minnesota analysis shows conventional farming has "clear advantage" over organic farming in yield per acre

Rebecca Nesbit: Extensive studies find no health problems associated with GMOs, and nine other GMO facts to know

International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph claiming glyphosate could cause cancer.

The Environmental Defense Fund activist scientist's contract insisted on his consulting work being kept confidential as he traveled the world to advocate for a glyphosate ban.

Learn more about Portier HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Adrian Dubock: How to contribute to the adoption of Golden Rice and address vitamin A deficiency

Michelle Miller: Eight myths about milk, including how "non-GMO" claims are just a marketing ploy

David Zaruk: Why must European taxpayers fund organic industry lobbyist Carey Gillam's witch hunt against glyphosate?

Genetic Literacy Project: Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones spreading fear about GMOs, pesticides to sell questionable products

Chris Woolston: Cancer experts say there's no reason to avoid GMOs or buy only organic fruits and vegetables

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Indian officials investigate pesticide poisoning that reportedly affected 1,000 farmers

Greenpeace, science advocacy group raise alarm about GM corn in Mexican tortillas despite moratorium on planting

European Parliament examines claims that Monsanto wrongfully influenced regulatory reviews of glyphosate

Ben & Jerry's announces plans for glyphosate-free line of ice creams in response to Organic Consumers Association attack

Calendar highlights

October 16-18	October 16	October 17
Embrapa symposium on loss of bees in Brazil	Vandana Shiva presentation at Georgia Southern University	Vandana Shiva at University of North Carolina-Asheville lecture tour
October 18	**October 18-20**	**October 23-25**
U.S. EPA Environmental Modeling Public Meeting on pesticide risk to pollinators	13th ICPPR International Symposium "Hazards of Pesticides to Bees" (Spain)	Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference (Brussels)

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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Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017 9:05:09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an Indian seed company's announcement it would continue pursuing its lawsuit against Monsanto. BASF announced it will purchase parts of Bayer's seed business. At a workshop in Nigeria, seed companies endorsed GM crop commercialization.

- *Reuters* reported that Nuziveedu Seeds announced it continue its intellectual property lawsuit against Monsanto although two other seed companies settled out of court. The *Deccan Chronicle* reported a Nuziveedu official said the company defrauded seed companies by illegally collecting royalty payments. **See more**
- BASF announced it will buy parts of Bayer's seed and and glufosinate business for about $7 billion. The transaction is contingent upon Bayer closing on its purchase of Monsanto. **See more**
- During a sensitization workshop for the Nigeria seed industry, several local seed companies endorsed GM crop commercialization. African Agricultural Technology Foundation Executive Director Denis Kyetere called for partnerships to transform small- and medium-sized farms into profit-driven businesses. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Campaign: FDA announces comment period for Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, including public meetings

News: Gizmodo reports company behind non-browning apple hopes product will overcome consumer resistance; notes Friends of the Earth has mounted campaign questioning apple's safety,

News: Canadian news agency reports Vigilance OGM points out Canadians could be unaware they are eating GE salmon; agency says "health risks remain unknown;" NGO wants more restrictions on GMOs
News: Western Canada ag news site highlights results of Canadian Centre for Food Integrity survey indicating public's opinion of country's food system, notes nearly half of respondents expressed concern over use of pesticides in crop production, safety of GMO food, use of hormones in animal ag
News: Farming news outlet reports on Gates Foundation's decision not to grant Phase II funding for University of Arizona research on GM corn variety that prevents formation of aflatoxins, lead researcher Monica Schmidt wished public distrust of GMOs didn't extent to researched aimed at preventing disease and famine

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports agency declares Bt cowpea safe to consumer, notes biotech can help

News: Burkina Faso news site reports Collective Citizens for Agro-ecology urges African heads of state to reject Bt cowpea, claims it is EU attempt to privatize seeds, will cause food poisoning

News: Xinhua reports on Kenyan Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Willy Bett's recent announcement of legislation to help oversee transfer, handling and use of GMOs, and regulations for research and commercial activities, highlights several GM crop varieties currently under development

Announcement: Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium announces Ministry of Agriculture, United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization will hold World Food Day Celebration Oct. 16

News: Nigerian news site reports seed companies endorse GM crop commercialization, farmers wait to use and benefit from GM seed, government finalizes plans to commercialize GM crops

News: Nigerian news site reports scientists dismiss claims that GM crops damage health; AATF cowpea project director notes criticism that GM cowpea damages kidneys, liver unfounded because the crop has not been tested

News: South African news source reports members of South African Food Sovereignty Campaign march in bid to persuade government to adopt "People's Food Sovereignty Act," calling for ban on all GM seeds, phaseout of industrial agriculture and pesticides in favor of indigenous crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: South Korean news site reports investigation finds unapproved GM rapeseed in 8 regions, officials worry about environmental impact

News: Reuters reports Indian state of Andhra Pradesh revokes order to inspect fields planted with unapproved GM cotton, no reason given for rescinding the order; Monsanto official says seed companies incorporating unapproved traits into their seeds is of "grave concern"

News: Indian business newspaper reports India's largest seed company, Mahyco, has reduced research into developing genetically modified seeds, may seek markets in Africa, South Asia; company says government reluctance to approve GM crops stifling innovation

News: Indian news site reports Bt cotton failure due to increased insect resistance leads to increased pesticide use and alleged farmer poisoning deaths

More Asia items

Europe

News: The Scottish Farmer reports Rothamsted and Syngenta researchers concluded GM limited by plant science boundaries, new research needed to continue yield improvements

Commentary: Le Monde's Stephane Foucart weighs in on GMO debate, believes problems arise from intended effects of using transgenesis, rather than the technology itself, highlights link between GMOs and rise in glyphosate use, pointing to environmental impacts, acknowledges potential benefits of gene editing

News: Italian news source highlights report from Ministry of Health that finds 3 percent of food tested contain traces of GMOs, despite nation's absolute ban on cultivating GM plant species; 33 percent of food supplements found GMOs, with organic "vegetable milk" showing some of highest levels

Commentary: Sciences et Avenir runs responses from two experts to reader's question about eating fruits and vegetables that contain pesticides or GMOs; epidemiologist says benefits of eating them outweighs risks of pesticide exposure, points out no serious studies show any risk to eating GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Colombian news outlet reports non-browning Arctic Apples will soon appear in US supermarkets, highlights Okanagan Specialty Fruits President Neal Carter's hope that they will help reduce food waste, reports on possible marketing difficulties due to perceived health risks

News: Argentinian news source reports social groups criticizing government's initiative to sanction bill that would punish farmers who save and reuse native seeds; opponents say bill designed to benefit multinational companies that create transgenic seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on research by La Trobe University, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology and University of Western Australia, with goal of using gene editing to help control crop germination, which could provide significant economic benefits to beer industry

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 9:02 09 PM

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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 reports criticizing transgenic crop production in Mexico and India. Argentina activists renewed criticism of the country's proposed seed law changes. In Nigeria, legislators called for an investigation into GM maize varieties illegally imported into the country.

- Greenpeace Mexico published a statement calling on the country's government to re-evaluate the use of transgenic crops in agriculture following a report that found transgenic maize DNA in most corn tortillas. The president of the Unión de Científicos Comprometidos con la Sociedad (UCCS) announced the study results in a news conference with researchers from the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM). **See more**
- Activist groups in Argentina issued a collective statement criticizing draft revisions of the country's seed law, calling for a rejection of all intellectual property restrictions on seeds. Under the Multisectorial for No on the Monsanto Seed Law, the groups announced plans to present their demands during a meeting today of the Commission of Agriculture and Livestock. **See more**
- In Nigeria, the House of Representatives ordered an investigation into reports that several ships containing unapproved GM maize varieties had been stopped at the borders by Nigeria's biosafety agency. Legislators tabling the motion called for committees to review the violation, criticizing importer Olam Group for not supporting local farmers. **See more**
- In an announcement coinciding with the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference in Washington, D.C., the U.K.-based Soil Association promoted a new report claiming that Bt cotton was "failing" farmers in India. Pointing to increases pest resistance to the trait, the group called for a shift to organic cotton production. In India, a Communist Party-affiliated group called for "criminal negligence" investigations against Monsanto over the spread of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton following reports that farmers were illegally cultivating the crop. **See more**.
- U.S. regulators announced two public listening sessions to allow input on an outreach program explaining the benefits of agricultural biotechnology. The events will take place in November in California and North Carolina; comments will be accepted on the program beginning tomorrow. **See more**

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North America

Event: FDA announces public meetings in partnership with USDA to provide outreach and educate public on agricultural biotechnology in Charlotte on Nov. 7 and San Francisco on Nov. 1

News: Reuters reports Dow working with ADM to keep Enlist E3 soybeans separated from rest of harvest due to lack of approval in Europe and China; adds Dow has waited over four years to receive soy approvals

Commentary: Los Angeles Times reporter summarizes evidence on cancer-causing agents, warns against smoking and excessive drinking but adds that GMOs have not been shown to be harmful

News: The Canadian Press reports environmental groups say first shipment of GE salmon from Panama "likely ended up on the plates of Quebec consumers"; groups say it's unclear which stores purchased the salmon

Commentary: Canadian anti-GM NGO reports "highly probable" country's first delivery of GE salmon imported into Quebec, demand mandatory GMO labeling from provincial government

News: Florida newspaper summarizes plant researcher Kevin Folta's libel lawsuit against the New York Times, quotes Poynter Institute VP who outlines difficulties of libel cases

Commentary: Sierra Club piece on spread of fall armyworm across Africa notes Lancaster University armyworm expert who is testing range of biopesticides as alternative to chemical pesticides used by country governments says combo of GM crops and pesticides used to keep pest in check is expensive

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news source reports FAO project manager of climate change and resilience calls on small farmers to embrace agroecology at launch of five-year Ugandan Participatory Ecological Land Use Management plan

News: Ugandan news site reports farmers speaking at launch of five-year Participatory Ecological Land Use Management strategic plan call for immediate law to regulate imported GMO seeds, claiming seeds not resilient to climate change and contribute to poor harvests; FAO manager at launch calls for "sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources"

News: Nigerian news site reports House of Representatives orders committee to investigate unapproved GM maize import, orders maize imports suspended until investigation is complete; notes Olam Group imported the unapproved maize for a factory rather than support local farmers

News: Nigerian news site reports House instructs committee to investigate import of unapproved GM maize; resolution indicates officials cognizant of "grave dangers" presented by GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Monsanto settles royalty dispute with three Indian cotton seed firms, remains in arbitration with others

News: Press Trust of India reports Monsanto settles royalty dispute with three Indian cotton seed companies, arbitration process with five other firms continues; Monsanto's appeal of government decision to fix cotton price with royalty pending before Delhi High Court

News: Business Standard reports Communist Party-affiliated farmer group calls on India authorities to punish Mahyco Monsanto for negligence it alleges resulted in leak, illegal cultivation of Glycel Bt cotton

News: Voice of America Indonesia reports study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences describing how researchers found way to genetically engineer maize to produce amino acid found in meat, predicting nutrient-rich food could benefit millions worldwide, reduce costs of animal feed

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news source reports visit by Vandana Shiva in conjunction with G7 summit; she calls creation of G7 a mistake and says farm and social groups must decide future solutions for food systems

News: Italian news agency ANSA reports Vandana Shiva visits with mayor during G7 agricultural

meeting, emphasizes mayors' importance and notes local agricultural emphasis

Report: Soil Association reflects on India GM cotton history to argue crops failed to deliver promised benefits, instead developed pest resistance that increased pesticide use, bankrupted farmers; urges consumers to buy organic to urge industry shift

News: Agence France-Presse reports French President Emmanuel Macron says CETA will ensure products imported from Canada will adhere to EU health and environmental standards, meaning products such as GE salmon will not be allowed for import

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports Union of Scientists Committed to the Society presents study finding 90 percent of tortillas tested contained transgenic maize, with glyphosate detected in many, group cites concerns about possible health impacts

News release: Greenpeace Mexico issues list of demands including re-evaluations of transgenics for human consumption by government, labeling of GMOs as right to know for Mexican consumers, following study by Union of Scientists Committed to the Society that showed widespread presence of transgenics in corn tortillas, processed foods

Commentary: CIAT blog profiles research assistant working on gene-edited crops designed to resist diseases or improve digestibility; previews Oct. 17 conference on genome editing

News: Argentinian broadcaster reports social and political groups raise questions about Seed Bill being considered Oct. 12 by Agriculture Committee that would modify current regulations, oppose limiting farmers' rights to store seeds, criminalization of native seeds, free exchange among producers, peasants, native peoples

News: International news agency Pressenza reports coalition of groups in Argentina issue statement in advance of Committee on Agriculture meeting Oct. 12 to address amendment of law on seeds, oppose bills that propose limiting farmers' ability to store seeds, criminalizing free exchange of native and Creole seeds

Interview: Brazilian news site interviews outgoing member of National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio), calls advisory body "a farce" for conflicts of interest and for endorsing GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports chief science advisor says country needs to reconsider approach to GM food as synthetic food will have "major impact" in next 10 to 15 years as strides being made in commercializing synthetic milk, meat

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 11, 2017
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9 01 00 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 Monsanto settled with some Indian seed companies over Bt cotton royalties. Meanwhile, Kenyan and Ethiopian news outlets reported on Bt cotton commercialization in those countries. International news outlets continued to amplify a study on pest resistance to Bt traits.

- Highlighting the ongoing controversy over cotton trait royalties in India, *Reuters* reported today that Monsanto had settled patent disputes with three of the country's leading seed makers. In a letter to India's farm minister, Monsanto had disclosed that Ajeet Seeds, Kaveri Seed Co. Ltd. and Ankur Seeds had all accepted a settlement over Bt cotton royalty payments. The terms of the arrangements were not discussed. *Reuters* noted that three additional companies were still contesting royalty payments. **See more**

- Agriculture officials in Ethiopia and Kenya both recently disclosed efforts to move toward commercialization of Bt cotton in the region. In a series of articles in *The Ethiopian Herald*, reporters amplified a statement from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) about the progress of Bt cotton field trials. **See more** In Kenya, *Xinhua* reported that the government would convene a "national task force" to oversee the launch of Bt cotton. **See more**

- International media outlets continued to highlight a new University of Arizona study that found increasing examples of insects evolving resistance to GM crop traits. Reports on the study circulated in Portuguese and Spanish, and an Indian news outlet linked the findings to pesticide poisonings in Maharastra. *Cosmos* magazine noted that farmers often failed to follow refuge guidelines. **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: Harvest Public Media reports on work of Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture, funded by U.S. Pork Board, Monsanto, Syngenta and Bayer; Coalition leader Charlie Arnot emphasized importance of transparency and engaging the public about gene editing

Commentary: Article in October issue of The Nation examines question of how to build a just, sustainable food system, authors suggest that new technologies like CRISPR may be used to enrich agrochemical companies at expense of farmers and the environment

Commentary: Dylan Sher of "Before The Plate" crew writes for Ag Daily, describes the film making process, following restaurant food ingredients back to the farm, highlighting goal of helping consumers understand where their food comes from, notes the film will not be a "pro-GMO" movie, but it will stress their importance and safety

News: CropLife reports Dow AgroSciences and ADM reach agreement that will give U.S. farmers access to Enlist E3 soybeans for 2018 planting; product resistant to applications of 2,4-D choline, glyphosate and glufosinate; farmers must deliver their crops to one of four ADM processing plants designated for program

News release: Food First! announces global community leader exchange meeting in South Africa to promote agroecology alternatives campaign via U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance; effort intended to counter corporate threats to food supply by Monsanto, Syngenta and Gates Foundation

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports on Kenya's launch of task force to oversee commercialization of Bt cotton over the next five years, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett announced government commitment to harnessing benefits of biotech, noting Kenyan farmers will start Bt cotton cultivation in 2019

News: Ethiopian news outlet reports on recent workshop where Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) Deputy Director General Adugna Wakjira noted Ethiopia is on the right track towards Bt cotton commercialization, which will boost textile and garment industry

News: Ethiopian news outlet reports on progress towards Bt cotton commercialization, Sanjay K. Gupta of JK Agri Genetics LTD noted Ethiopia's fertile land and abundant water resources opens potential for improved yields and profits using GM technology, highlights recent workshop on other countries' experiences with Bt cotton

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports Monsanto settles GM cotton intellectual property dispute with three Indian cotton seed makers, Ajeet Seeds, Kaveri Seed Co Ltd and Ankur Seeds, terms of resolution were not disclosed, disputes with Sri Rama Agri Genetics, Amar Biotech and Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd (NSL) are pending

News: Indian news outlet reports on recent study in Nature Biotechnology demonstrating accelerating rate of pests evolving resistance to GM crops, a significant discovery for India as it weighs large-scale GM crop adoption, highlights reports on pest resistance to Bt cotton in India, and pesticide poisonings in Maharashtra due to overuse

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: U.K.'s Rothamsted Research promotes opinion article co-written by its scientists touting potential for GM technology to create higher-yielding, more resilient food crops; scientists from Syngenta Crop Science and Symmetry Bioanalytics collaborated on article

Announcement: Global Plant Council issues statement on gene editing in agriculture, calls for evaluation of new products on a case-by-case basis, only regulating them as GMOs if the end product could not occur in Nature, calls for transparent, evidence-based regulations

Commentary: U.K.'s Female First runs piece by popular science author Rebecca Nesbit listing 10 facts about GM foods, pointing out GM crops being developed in England include disease-resistant potatoes and camelina, extensive studies have found no health problems associated with GM foods

Campaign: German natural food producer Rapunzel publishes position paper for its FOODPrints campaign; notes opposition to products of new breeding techniques, highlights threats to EU standards and precautionary principle's ability to enable protection of GM-free food

News: German anti-GMO news site reports on new campaign launched by natural food producer Rapunzel, FOODPrint, seeking to raise awareness of risks of new GE methods, and calls for regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, Rapunzel Managing Director Joseph Wilhelm wants to present demands to the new Ag Minister

News: Italian news outlet reports on University of Arizona study demonstrating acceleration of pests' resistance to GM crops, highlighting ability of pests to develop resistance in five years, and benefits of refuge areas

News: Portuguese news agency reports on study in Nature Biotechnology demonstrating that pests are rapidly developing resistance to GM insect-resistant crops, author Bruce Tabashnik noted that when Bt crops were first introduced in 1996, no one knew how quickly pests would adapt

News: Bergamo, Italy news outlet reports on Vandana Shiva's visit and lecture ahead of G7 Agriculture Summit, in which she speaks out against industrialized agriculture, which she claims destroys biodiversity and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports provincial regent of ecology and environment calls on consumers in Huajuapan region of Oaxaca to avoid processed foods in supermarkets, buy mainly organic products that protect health, strengthen economy of peasants, praises groups that eschew transgenic maize

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor voices concern that agribusiness sector is requiring government to violate state constitution by allowing entry of GM crops, points to existing problem of glyphosate-resistant weeds, as well as controversy surrounding its toxicity

News: Chilean news outlet reports on concerns surrounding reopening of TPP negotiations, international analyst Guillermo Holzmann noted the deal may allow companies like Monsanto a new opportunity to enter the country, raising intellectual property and patent issues, and health and environmental concerns

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Cosmos reports on Nature Biotechnology study finding rapid rise in rate of insect resistance to GM crops, highlighting authors' recommendation that use of abundant refuge areas can delay development of resistance, reports many farmers have not properly followed refuge guidelines

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 10, 2017
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 9:04:50 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included commentary and announcements anticipating a meeting of the G7 agriculture ministers, as well as a meeting of the European Parliament's environment committee.

- Italian agriculture groups previewed the G7 agriculture ministers' meeting scheduled for Oct. 14-15. Slow Food Valli Orobiche highlighted an presentation planned tomorrow by activist Vandana Shiva. The Associazione Luca Coscioni, a pro-research group, used the occasion to launch a new website that explains the potential benefits of genome editing. **See more**
- The European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety previewed its Oct. 11-12 meeting, highlighting a public session to review Monsanto's promotion of glyphosate. A committee newsletter also previewed a session on the European Commission's recommendations for updating GM crop risk assessments, noting that a vote on the commission's proposal is likely to take place on Friday (Oct. 13). **See more**
- The U.K.'s *Daily Mail* highlighted recent research out of the University of Arizona claiming that insects were "rapidly" developing resistance to GM crops expressing Bt proteins. The article quoted activists with GM Freeze and Beyond GM. **See more**

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North America

News: New York Daily News reports GM Arctic apples to be released this fall in stores throughout Midwest and Southern California but won't be labeled as GMOs thanks to 2016 law; University of California-Berkeley ag professor defends product, says it may hasten consumer acceptance of GMO foods

News: Dow Jones Newswires reports on ag industry's investment in new gene editing technologies, and hopes that they could help shift debate on GE seeds, Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant emphasized importance of explaining benefits, and DowDupont's James Collins noted gene editing is different in that no outside genes are inserted

News: Ag Information Network reports global cotton, wheat and specialty crops lead for Monsanto says gene editing allows for more crop diversity, asserts cost of gene editing less than for genetic modification, predicts gene editing will create new opportunities for wheat, fruits and vegetables

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Tim Barker amplifies recent meta analysis published in Environmental Research Letters, highlighting findings that conventional agriculture holds several ecological advantages over organic, especially with regards to yield gap

News release: Organic supplement company Garden of Life announces it's teaming up with author Robyn O'Brien to celebrate Non-GMO Month by creating pop-up "garden experience" Oct. 10 in New York City, promotes its products all Non-GMO Project Verified and Certified USDA Organic

More North America items

Africa

Video: Kenyan TV station posts YouTube video of report on new agreement to use gene editing in attempt to develop variety of maize resistant to maize lethal necrosis disease

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on implications of recently passed biosafety law for farmers and other stakeholders, farmer Abdallah Drasiku highlighted many benefits of biotech crops, but noted farmers will still have choice in whether to plant GM, hybrid or traditional varieties

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Bio-safety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Egbegba's recent statement that GM crops are not new crops, but the same conventional crops with improvements inserted, urging citizens to ignore statements painting GMOs as harmful

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on recent sensitization workshop for seed sector stakeholders, following announcement of plans to release Bt cowpea and cotton to farmers next year, National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) Director General Phillip Ojo noted the meeting's importance for education about newest technological advancements

More Africa items

Asia

Interview: Indian finance news outlet publishes excerpt of interview with Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) chairperson Amita Prasad, regarding illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant cotton, Prasad notes GEAC has not received reports from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Institute for Cotton Research

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: EU Parliament ENVI Committee newsletter previews Oct. 11-12 meetings expected to commence Monsanto papers/glyphosate hearing, also feature exchange of views with EU Commission on GMO environmental risk assessment, EDC criteria

Commentary: Slow Food promotes upcoming Summit on the Future of Food to accompany G7 Ag Ministers Summit, where Vandana Shiva will be a featured speaker, highlights her fight against agribusiness and patented seeds

Announcement: Italian Federation of Biological and Biodynamic Agriculture announces speakers for G7 Agriculture in Bergamo event on Oct. 12, with theme of "The biological as a model of sustainable farming systems," reiterates claim that organic agriculture is the only way to sustainably feed the planet

Announcement: Italian pro-science group, Associazione Luca Coscioni announces launch of its GeniMigliori.it website, dedicated to genetic editing of plants, reiterating appeal to Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Health to allow field experimentation of GM crop research

News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on recent research demonstrating that pests are able to develop resistance to GM crops within five years, researchers noted planting refuge areas of non-GM crops can slow down development of resistance to the technology, highlights reactions from GM Freeze and Beyond GM

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Rutgers University scientists' development of GM corn capable of producing important nutrient methionine, commonly found in meat, co-author Thomas Leustek noted that the technology could be quickly deployed in principle, but that regulatory hurdles would be a major obstacle

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian agroecology NGO AS-PTA recounts recent 7th State Party of the Seeds of the Passion, jointly organized with Paraiba Semiarid Association (ASA Paraíba), ASA Brasil coordinator Naidison Quintella charged government with protecting creole seeds, others warned about contamination from transgenics

News: Brazilian tech news source reports GM arctic apples from Okanagan Specialty Fruits about to go on U.S. market, notes gene silencing used to reduce enzyme that causes inside of fruit to turn brown when cut open, points out anti-GMO groups opposing sale of product despite labeling requirements

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, October 9, 2017 9 04:42 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 commentary included ongoing response to last week's European Parliament meeting where members adopted a resolution opposing new GM soy imports. Ugandan media outlets continued to discuss the country's recently approved biosafety law.

- Amplifying the European Parliament's resolution calling on the European Commission not to approve new GM soy varieties for import, Italy's 5 Star Movement announced that it was proposing an amendment to the EU's GM crop approval processes. The group added that consumers and member states oppose the crops but legislative procedures allow the commission to approve them through a "loophole." **See more**
- Commentary on Uganda's recently approved biosafety bill continued. A columnist with Uganda's *The Observer* questioned the motives of companies promoting the measure, arguing that farmers will be locked into expensive crop production systems with unknown health risks. *The Sunrise* quoted researchers who criticized the bill's requirement for environmental impact assessments on test crops. **See more**
- Agricultural news outlets promoted a *PR Week* interview with Mann Packing's marketing director, who elaborated on a Facebook statement that the company would be discontinuing the use of "Non-GMO Project Verified" labels on its vegetables due to the company's concern that the free-from claim perpetuates fear about GMOs. **See more**

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North America

Embargoed release (Oct. 10): University of Arizona researchers examine growing pest resistance to GM crop traits, identify use of refuges as crucial to delaying adaptation; highlight case study of India versus US pink bollworm resistance

News: PR Week reports on Mann Packing corporate marketing director Gina Nucci's explanation of the company's decision to remove non-GMO labeling, noting they did not want to perpetuate fear that something is wrong with GMOs, highlights their participation in Alliance for Food and Farming

News: Ag news outlets amplify reports that vegetable supplier Mann Packing will remove "non-GMO" label from certain lettuce products; NAFB news notes company doesn't want to perpetuate GMO fears, acknowledges that there is no GM lettuce

Commentary: Biotech research news site Legume Laboratory amplifies recent article in Plant Biotechnology Journal which reviewed several studies frequently cited by anti-GMO movement, highlights the paper's demonstration of several flaws in each of the studies, notes majority of studies find that GMOs are safe

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Ghana-based journalist reporting intensified debate over safety of biotech applications in food production as nation prepares for first commercial release of GE crop in 2018; officials say GMO cowpea ready for commercialization next year after successful field trials

Commentary: Jonathan Latham writes for Bioscience Resource Project's Independent Science News, describes his recent research in which he claims to demonstrate that biotech Bt toxins are substantially different from those occurring in nature, claims biotech companies like Monsanto are patenting "supertoxins"

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on controversy surrounding recently passed biosafety law's requirement that any researcher must conduct an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to beginning research, Peter Wamboga Mugirya, from Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development argued the measure is uncalled for

Commentary: Ugandan news outlet contributor voices concerns about recently passed biosafety bill, criticizing involvement of multinational corporations, believes introduction of GM seeds will worsen poverty, and that GMOs are being introduced without environmental or health assessments

News: Nigerian news source reports head of National Bio-safety Management Agency defends use of GMO crops, says they're same as conventional crops improved for purpose of sustainability and improved yields, urges citizens to take scientific view of GMOs and ignore claims they cause health and environmental problems

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Ghana-based journalist reporting intensified debate over safety of biotech applications in food production as nation prepares for first commercial release of GE crop in 2018; officials say GMO cowpea ready for commercialization next year after successful field trials

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CRI-CSIR) former Crops Research Institute director Adu-Dapaah's recent lecture at Prempeh College, calling for open, candid and informed debate on GMOs, noting their safe use is essential for food security

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on recent International Soy Conclave organized by Soyabean Processors Association in Indore, highlights arguments presented both for and against GM soy adoption in India

News: India's The Wire discusses history and evolution of dengue virus, reports trials underway of GM mosquitoes carrying lethal gene that induces sterility among wild mosquitoes, along with attempts to infect mosquitoes with Wolbachia bacteria that can prevent dengue virus from replicating in mosquitoes

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies policy brief published in Food Ethics, highlighting proposed framework of "care-based" ethics and politics to guide biotech regulatory assessments, and argument that assessments must go beyond risks to human health and the environment

More Asia items

Europe

News: Farmers Guardian reports on recent research by Syngenta and Rothamsted Research scientists, finding need for increased knowledge on genes that control plant yields, Rothamsted's Matthew Paul noted the technology's potential is running ahead of ability to deploy it

Commentary: Italy's Five Star Movement proposes amendment to rules regarding technical committees, in reaction to EU Commission plans to authorize new GM soybean varieties in spite of opposition from Parliament and member states, proposes that authorizations cannot proceed in absence of opinion by technical committee and panel of appeals

Commentary: French MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat voices opposition to proposed authorization of new herbicide-tolerant GM soybean varieties by Bayer and Dow, voicing concern about uncertainties surrounding impact on immune system and the reproductive system, calls for adherence to precautionary principle

Announcement: Parliament of Ukraine posts update on draft law on state control of GM products in agriculture and food industry, basic revision of bill referred to Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land Relations

Commentary: Norwegian NGO GenØk promotes new article by its senior scientist suggesting use of Bt-toxins may lead to pests developing resistance, that observed benefits of Bt maize and cotton may not last long, and that milkweed nearly extinct in GM soybean and corn fields covering vast area of United States

News release: Bayer, along with Belgian young farmers associations Groene Kring (GK) and Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs (FJA), announce's kick-off of third edition of Youth Ag-Summit, bringing together 100 young leaders to discussion solutions for feeding the growing population in a sustainable manner

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent II Maize Festival at House of Culture of Tijuana, where event organizer Adriana Mercado Polanco claimed Mexican maize is at risk of being privatized and made artificial, and that transgenic maize will cause the land to become infertile

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 - Oct. 9, 2017
Date: Monday, October 9, 2017 4:05 05 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As the European Parliament voted down proposed criteria to define endocrine disruptors and again delayed action on the reauthorization of glyphosate last week, David Zaruk used his blog to coin a new term about the thinking behind the European regulatory process: The Possibilist Principle. As Zaruk describes it, he sees possibilism as seeing a "remote possibility as good reason to avoid a decision and take precaution." There's much more on this topic in his full article featured in the Stories Worth Sharing section.

There's also a piece by Kevin Folta taking a retrospective look at how a controversial study by Gilles-Eric Seralini continues to block the adoption of biotechnology and the delivery of needed food five years later, plus a hopeful look at the Ugandan Parliament's approval of a biosafety bill that moves the country a step closer to biotechnology solutions.

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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: Vandana Shiva

Vandana Shiva is one of the most outspoken anti-GMO, anti-corporate global activist voices.

Shiva makes highly charged and factually disputed claims,

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: Europe now basing pesticide and EDC regulations on "remote possibility" of harm

Gary Baise: Was National Institutes of Health scientist honest by withholding glyphosate safety information?

Science Moms: Vegetable company should be praised for taking closer look at science and removing Non-GMO labels

Ex-Defra secretary questions EU neonic restrictions, says Brexit provides chance to help environment by embracing GM crops

Rog Wood: Organic farming "little more than a clever marketing ploy" lacking scientifically proven benefits

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation asks U.S. Interior secretary to overturn bans on GM crops, neonics in wildlife refuges

Kevin Folta: Five years later, Seralini study continues to impede use of sound agricultural technology, keep food from many in need

Michelle Miller: Dannon making mistake to partner with Non-GMO Project, which "lies to people for profits"

such as Indian farmer suicides are linked to biotechnology crops, to audiences across the globe.

Shiva, who reportedly earns speaking fees in excess of US$40,000 per event, will be on a tour of various U.S. colleges in October.

Learn more about Shiva HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jeremiah Traeger: With passage of biosafety bill, Uganda moving past pseudoscience standing in the way of "life-saving" biotechnologies

Andrew Porterfield: Natural News wrong with claim Amish farmers have lower cancer rates because they don't use GM crops, pesticides

Canadian filmmaker Nick Saik explains his plans for "Know GMO" documentary

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What's Trending?

European Parliament rejects criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals, raising objections to exceptions for pesticides

Swiss research linked to Task Force on Systemic Pesticides claims three-fourths of world's honey contains neonics

Uganda Parliament approves biosafety bill after years of delay

Vote on European reauthorization of glyphosate delayed again / Hearing planned this week on "Monsanto Papers" allegations

Calendar highlights

October 9-13	October 9-11	October 10
World Convention on Sustainable Biotechnology (New Zealand)	Protecting Pollinators in Urban Landscapes conference (Michigan)	Wall Street Journal Global Food Forum (New York)
October 11-13	**October 11**	**October 12-13**
"Assessing the Security Implications of Genome Editing Technology" workshop (Hanover, Germany)	Health Information Center debate on endocrine disruptors (Pointers, France)	NZBIO Biotechnology/Life Sciences Conference (Wellington, New Zealand)

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Date: Sunday, October 8, 2017 9 04:38 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 highlights over the weekend included ongoing reports about Uganda's Parliament approving a long-debated biosafety bill. *Reuters* and Indian news sites reported unapproved GM cotton being sold and cultivated in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

- Ugandan Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Elioda Tumwesigye said the newly approved biosafety law provides safeguards to protect consumers. Anti-biotech critics warned that if the country embraces GMOs, it will endanger trade with the European Union and the country would be entrusting its food security to biotech companies. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported unapproved GM cotton is being sold and cultivated in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and *The Times of India* reported Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard III variety is being sold and cultivated in Maharashtra. A *Financial Express* editorial said the government failed to provide oversight to prevent planting of herbicide-tolerant cotton, which could lead to quicker development of insect resistance. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: MIT Technology Review reports bags of sliced non-browning Arctic Apples by Okanagan Specialty Fruits will hit U.S. shelves this fall, Okanagan founder Neal Carter explained decision to use a QR code rather than a text GE label, noting they didn't want to put a skull and crossbones on the package

News: The Washington Post reports Australian researchers aim to produce GM banana resistant to banana wilt that threatens world's banana suppliers

News: Boulder Daily Camera reports on open space farmers' call for a "time out" on clock counting down GM crop bans on county-owned land, as plans for the GMO transition program and research center have stalled, sugar beet farmer Paul Schlagel noted growers are reluctant to implement their own changes, should they differ from county plans

Commentary: Kevin Folta says U.S. Right to Know, Organic Consumers Association is misleading and deceitful in attempting to ruin Folta's reputation, link him to Monsanto, calling him a "shill"

Commentary: Keith Kloor writes in Slate article that Folta's libel suit says NYT article misrepresented his relationship with Monsanto, says writer Eric Lipton is accountable if he got the facts wrong, but is not responsible for the Internet's reaction

Commentary: Kevin Folta writes for Medium, examines consequences of Seralini's infamous rat study five years after publication, points to issues in methodology, data presentation and ethics, notes several countries suffering from food insecurity have since adopted restrictive policies on GMOs, in spite of the study being "dead on arrival

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield rebuts Natural News blog that claimed

Ohio's Amish have lower cancer rates because they don't use GM crops or pesticides, points out Amish farmers actually use both, suggests genetics and lower rates of smoking may play bigger roles in Amish cancer rates

More North America items

Africa

News: Science magazine reports on biotech researchers' celebration of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, opening the door to large-scale field trials and commercial release of GM crops, Uganda's science minister Elioda Tumwesigye addressed concerns by announcing plans for an indigenous crop seed bank

Commentary: Patheos blogger supports use of GMOs as safe, effective, necessary to meet future agricultural demands, laments government restrictions in Uganda that prevent access to GMO bananas, other crops that could feed nation's poor during drought, blames pseudo-science for anti-GMO positions of elected officials

Commentary: Ghana's Graphic Online runs op-ed discussing nation's debate over GMOs, asserting opposing sides on issue entrenched in their stances, questioning whether Ghana can achieve Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture

Interview: Nigeria's The Guardian talks to country's Minister of Agriculture Audu Ogbe, who cites need for country to adopt GMO crops in spite of public concerns, points out yields of GM cotton in Pakistan 10 times higher than conventional cotton in Nigeria, asserts GM crops needed to feed growing population, fuel ag exports

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor claims entry of Monsanto and promotion of GM crops and glyphosate is one of the most serious threats to Nigeria's food safety, calls for withdrawal of GM crop authorization

More Africa items

Asia

News: Thai news outlet reports on BIOTHAI report on Ag Department's plans to revise Plant Variety Protection Act, highlights concerns that it will allow multinational seed corporations to create monopolies, penalize farmers who replant seeds, and destroy biodiversity and food security

News: Times of India reports farmers say Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard III being illegally sold and cultivated in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, says farmers were unaware of the seed variety when they purchased the seed

Commentary: Retired director general of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Jiban Krishna Biswas, continues series on GMO controversy with focus on Bt eggplant, argues that Bt eggplant has great potential to reduce insecticide use, urges caution to preserve crop diversity

News: Filipino news site reports Department of Agriculture again begins field tests for Bt eggplant after Supreme Court reversed decision that had banned the crop; university study leader says Bt eggplant is healthier, safer alternative to fight pests

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italian news outlet contributor examines how EU Court of Justice decision in favor of farmer Giorgio Fidenato demonstrates hypocrisy of Italian government and EU institutions, notes importing large amounts of GM feed while prohibiting GM cultivation is not beneficial to Europe's ag sector

News: Le Monde's Stéphane Horel and Stéphane Foucart continue investigation of "Monsanto papers," focusing on retraction of Gilles-Eric Seralini's infamous rat study, highlighting Food and Chemical Toxicology editor Wallace Hayes' consulting contract with Monsanto

News: French news outlet reports on concerns surrounding Canada's approval of GE salmon and signing of CETA agreement, highlights difference in labeling requirements

Commentary: Romanian news source warns against eating breakfast cereals because they contain GMOs, claims they are "extremely toxic" and cause many health problems

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist says countries rely on six large capitalist companies, which control the seed, prices, technology and innovation, notes Mexico's Senate environmental committee approves forestry development law that will allow plundering of forests

News: Argentine news site reports Monsanto's Intacta RR2 soy variety tests indicate it has superior yields with average increase of 333 kg per hectare

Commentary: Uruguayan news site columnist says GM crops, glyphosate needed to feed millions of people and benefit the enviroment; says banning them would dramatically increase food prices

Interview : Colombian news site reports Syngenta sustainability manager says GM crops reduce CO2 emissions, reduce agricultural footprint, are resistant to bad weather and soil conditions

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE warns readers about health risks of recently approved GM potato varieties, amplifying study demonstrating negative impact of RNAi on bees, criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval process, urges supporters to voice opposition to retailers

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on farming groups' concerns over Senator Nick Xenophon's decision to quit the Senate and run for a SA lower house seat, casting doubt on efforts to repeal the state's economically stifling GM crop ban

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017 9 02:41 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 highlights include news that the European Parliament passed resolutions rejecting new GM soy and maize imports. A U.S.-based anti-biotechnology researcher issued a new paper claiming that genetically engineered Bt proteins are more toxic than naturally occurring versions.

- The European Parliament approved two resolutions, forwarded by the environment committee, which call on the European Commission to withdraw its draft decision approving Bayer and Dow soybean traits for imports. The resolution questioned the European Food Safety Authority's environmental assessment and called for a moratorium on any crop approvals until controversy over the approval process can be resolved. **See more**
- Researchers Jonathan Latham and Angelika Hilbeck, both active critics of agricultural biotechnology, released a new paper claiming that the cry insecticidal proteins created through genetic engineering in plants are much more toxic than naturally occurring proteins. The researchers called on governments to reassess Bt trait crops in light of this conclusion. Anti-biotechnology movement groups, including GMWatch and Sustainable Pulse, amplified the study. **See more**
- Uganda's *The Sunrise* reported on yesterday's announcement that the Parliament had approved the country's long-delayed biosafety law. The article highlighted several crops under development, including bacterial wilt-resistant bananas and maize varieties that can withstand stem borer and fall armyworm attacks. **See more**
- Responding to a Senate Committee's late-September decision to approve Mexico's Law on General Biodiversity, the Union of Scientists Committed to Society (UCCS) warned against a full Senate vote without more discussion on the measure. The statement claimed that the current proposal could allow transnational companies to patent indigenous crop varieties. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Study: Latham, Hilbeck study claims proteins changed when Bt toxin is inserted into plants, says this necessitates assessment of Bt toxin when used in GM plants

News: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports Oxitec still waiting to perform GM mosquito trials in Florida 7 years after arriving in state, one year after vote affirming tests; notes residents wary of scientific uncertainty, asks can "scientific data trump political scare tactics"

Announcement: U.S. FDA posts notice in Federal Register of clarification of FDA and EPA jurisdiction over mosquito-related products, guidance for industry and availability, provides instructions for submitting electronic or written comments

News: Reuters reports federal appeals court upholds ruling dismissing lawsuit against Chipotle for falsely advertising it removed GMOs from menu; court said customer could not show she damages from the ads

Announcement: University of Minnesota promotes study that recommends using cooperative governance networks to find common ground, decide when and where to use gene editing techniques for crops in ways acceptable to society

Event: University of Saskatchewan's Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy promotes Oct. 11 public lecture and video conference featuring Adam Malima, chair of Biotechnology Society of Tanzania, discussing whether Africa needs biotechnology

Event: Mike Rowe announces "Farmers for America" film sponsored by leading absence-claim marketers Chipotle, ClifBar and other conventional agriculture critics - to premier Oct. 26-27 in Indianapolis

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Parliament passes biosafety bill despite opposition by NGOs citing country's strong market for organic products; plant breeder says bill will help Uganda lead Africa in food research

News: Egyptian news outlet reports on Farmers Union leader Hussein Abdulrahman Abu-Saddam's call for ban on entry of GM agricultural and animal products, citing human health risks

More Africa items

Asia

News: The International News reports Pakistan's "TheNetwork" for Consumer Protection launches shoppers guideline on how to buy organic food; group's executive director says organic food not grown from GM seeds, is free from chemical fertilizers and pesticides

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Bangladeshi farmer describing how agriculture in his country has evolved from primitive techniques to use of Bt eggplant, which more than 6,000 farmers now cultivate, allowing them to improve their economic status

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution in opposition to EU Commission's draft decision granting approval for Dow's new herbicide-tolerant soybean variety, points to health risks of relevant herbicides, argues draft Commission implementing decision is not consistent with Union law

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution asking EU Commission not to approve Bayer's new herbicide-tolerant GM soybean variety, or any herbicide-tolerant GM crop variety until health effects of herbicide residues are fully assessed

News release: Testbiotech reiterates call on EU Commission to stop approval of new GM soybean varieties by Dow and Bayer, following EU Parliament's resolution against them, arguing that herbicides associated with the new GMOs are harmful to human health and have not been sufficiently evaluated by EFSA

Announcement: European Commission posts agenda for Regulatory Committee meeting Oct. 13 to discuss unauthorized GM petunias, update by Spain on measures taken and their results to eliminate teosinte from maize fields, along with possible opinion of committee on draft directive regarding environmental risk assessment of GMOs

News release: European Coalition Via Campesina announces UN Human Rights Council upholds Peasants' Rights Declaration, Portugal has expressed support of the process, calls on EU governments to support rural communities and defend peasants' rights

Campaign: Food sovereignty activists issue call for signatures on UN bill protecting human rights against trans-national corporations, preview Oct. 23-27 events

Commentary: Consumers union for Calabria region of Italy says recent European Court of Justice ruling shows Italian authorities improperly applied precautionary principle against Udine farmers who planted GMO corn seeds, asserts no serious risk to human, animal or environmental health from cultivation of GM maize

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Mexican NGO Union of Scientists Committed to Society (UCCS) warns against passage of General Law of Biodiversity without thorough discussion, arguing it threatens natural resources of indigenous and peasant peoples by opening doors to transnational companies

News: Mexican news outlet reports on launch of cycle of conferences to be held by National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio), running through December, Conabio coordinator José Sarukhán argued Mexico has 60 native maize varieties, and that importing transgenic maize is unnecessary

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Nurío community chronicler Jose Manuel Torres Marcos' recent statement that transgenic maize has "invaded the region," warning that it drives down prices, creating unfair competition for local farmers, and claiming that transgenic maize production damages the earth

News: Argentinian NGO ECOS Cordoba reports Monsanto will sue municipality of Rio Cuarto, following High Court of Justice ruling, Río Cuarto No Agrochemical Assembly reaffirmed its opposition to the company, which seeks to overturn previous administration's prohibition of experimental seed trials

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 news included an announcement from Uganda's Parliament on the passage of that country's biosafety law. Asian news outlets amplified a University of California-Riverside study on the health benefits of DuPont's Plenish soybean.

- While details are limited, Uganda's Parliamentary Twitter account announced that legislators had passed the Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill (2012). Initial reporting on the parliamentary session focused on an altercation among MPs, with little early reporting on the biosafety legislation. **See more**
- In contrast to U.S. reporting, Asian news outlets amplifying a University of California-Riverside study that claimed that oils made from the genetically modified Plenish soybean may cause liver damage. The university announcement emphasized that fatty liver results were similar across Plenish oil, conventional soybean oil, coconut oil and olive oil. U.S. news outlets had highlighted other results showing that Plenish oil resulted in less insulin resistance. **See more**
- Brazil's competition watchdog, Cade, warned that Bayer's purchase of Monsanto should only be approved with restrictions. The agency recommended "structural" solutions, such as divestments. The announcement was reported by *Reuters* and local news outlets. **See more**

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North America

News: Politico - FDA pushes back on USDA decision to move Codex from public health arm to trade division, arguing oversight from non-science organization undermines its credibility as U.S. science-based enterprise

News: Politico - U.S. Ag Secretary Perdue defends decision to move Codex from food safety arm to new trade division at trade conference, argues countries will no longer be allowed to use Codex as means to keep products out

Event: Conventional on Biological Diversity releases provisional agenda for Dec. 5-8 meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

News: Des Moines Register reports three protesters sue World Food Prize and state of Iowa for alleged first amendment rights violations, arguing they have the right to protest the 2017 ceremony within sight and sound of participants, the plaintiffs have protested the event in the past, voicing opposition to GMOs

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: Parliament of Uganda tweets that the National Biosafety Bill passes into law

News: Kenya's The Star reports health secretary dismisses opposition leader's claims that tetanus vaccine administered to women in May laced with anti-pregnancy hormone; Roman Catholic archbishop had asked Kenyan members of church to reject vaccine along with GMO foods, citing "hidden agenda" behind them

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Philippine Rice Research Institute announces plans to construct Department of Agriculture's largest biotechnology center, aimed at enhancing commercial value of rice, abaca, coconut, white and yellow corn, cotton, cassava, sweet potato, yam, tomato and eggplant

Event: News agency for occupied Palestinian territory reports Palestinian Farmers Movement to hold conference of farmers from provinces in late November, part of the Global Peasant Movement that advocates for sustainable agriculture, opposes use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and GM foods

News: Indian TV station amplifies study published in Nature Scientific Reports Journal that finds DuPont's GM Plenish soybean oil may be harmful for liver, produces essentially identical effects as olive oil; report says research busts "myth" that soybean oil reduces cholesterol levels

News: Asia News International amplifies study by University of California-Riverside researchers finding DuPont's GM Plenish soybean oil induces less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but effects on diabetes and fatty liver are similar

Commentary: Indonesian news outlet contributor reports on recent UC Riverside study on health impact of GM soybean oil, claims the study has "found the myth" that GM soybean oil is healthier than conventional soybean oil, and that it warns GM soybean oil harms liver function

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on recent EU Court of Justice hearing on whether products of directed mutagenesis should be regulated as GMOs, with attorney for the nine anti-GM associations arguing that "everything that is artificial constitutes a GMO," final decision will be issued on Dec. 20

News: Italian news outlet reports EU Court of Justice instructs Advocate-General to give opinion on legal status of new breeding techniques on December 20, with no definitive answer resulting from recent public hearing, which saw several arguments both for and against strict regulation

News: French radio station reports trial set for Volunteer Reaper charged with destroying packages of products containing glyphosate in French garden centers, notes solidarity is being organized for event (Oct. 20)

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazil's Administrative Council for Economic Defense announces opinion from superintendent-general on Bayer's purchase of Monsanto, which warns of horizontal concentration in markets for transgenic soybeans and cotton, calls biotech essential input to compete in seed markets; GM crops dominate Brazilian production

News: Reuters reports Brazilian regulatory agency warns Bayer's takeover of Monsanto could hurt competition, urges "structural solutions" as condition for final approval of deal, including ensuring another competitor in biotech development

News release: Embrapa profiles staff researcher on agenda to speak at organization's bee loss symposium (Oct. 16-18), highlights her research affirming GM crops do not threaten bee populations

Event: Brazil government, FAO, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul host seminar examining agroecology policies in Latin America featuring talks by members of small farmers movement, Via Campesina, sessions on pesticide abuse (Oct. 4-6)

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor calls for end to "urban myths" about GMOs, following recent reports of local producers illegally using GM corn seed, points to former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas' change in opinion after examining the science behind GMOs

News release: Slow Food Mexico announces launch of its Un Mexico Transgenico campaign, demanding transparency from industry about negative impact of GMOs on local communities and ecosystems, as well as mandatory labeling, with goal of creating more consumer awareness

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Soil & Health Association of New Zealand criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval of six GM potato varieties for human consumption, arguing the approvals were made without sufficient evidence that they are safe to eat

News release: GE Free Northland sounds alarm over Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) decision to approve six US GM potato varieties for sale in New Zealand and Australia, spokesman Martin Robinson argues New Zealand must withdraw from FSANZ and tighten labeling laws

Event: New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi to host public lecture on gene editing on Oct. 11 by Elspeth MacRae, General Manager Manufacturing & Bioproducts at Scion, a Crown Research Institute, she will describe developments in gene editing, improved products, and potential to revolutionize food production

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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 commentary on the European Court of Justice hearing today to review plant breeding techniques. In the U.S., researchers called for the Fish and Wildlife Service to revisit its ban on GMOs in wildlife refuges.

- The European Court of Justice heard a French case today to review whether plants derived from mutagenesis should be regulated under guidelines for genetically modified crops. Confédération Paysanne brought the case following in-country activism from groups such as the Volunteer Reapers. Commentary in French and Italian news outlets highlighted the potential repercussions of a decision, although they noted that a decision isn't expected until 2018. **See more**
- U.S. researchers with the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) issued an open letter today asking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to revoke a Fish and Wildlife Service policy phasing out the use of genetically modified crops. Noting that the ban was "arbitrary," the group also said that such a policy should have been subject to public comment process. **See more**

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North America

News release: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and group of independent scientists submit letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, calling for reversal of Fish and Wildlife Service's "arbitrary and capricious" policy banning use of GM seeds to feed wildlife, and reversal of neonic ban

News: Reuters reports new opinion poll shows majority of Americans want U.S. government to require nutrition labels on food packaging; Trump administration has delayed introduction of mandatory labeling of GE ingredients in packaged food, FDA has proposed giving manufacturers extra 18 months to comply

News release: University of California-Riverside promotes research by its scientists showing GM soybean oil used in restaurants induces less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but DuPont's Plenish oil has similar effects on diabetes and fatty liver to those of conventional soybean oil

News release: Calyxt Inc. and S&W Seed Company announce first of two alfalfa product candidates designated as non-regulated article by USDA agency, becomes sixth product developed using Calyxt's proprietary gene editing technology TALEN to be confirmed as non-regulated article

Commentary: Ag Daily runs op-ed by "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller criticizing Dannon's shift to non-GMO sourced feed for dairy cows as bad financial move, worse public relations, pointing out farmers who grow feed corn overwhelmingly prefer GMO crops for their many benefits

Commentary: Regeneration Vermont claims Cabot Creamery, Ben & Jerry's, Vermont's ag agency hide toxic realities of dairy that contaminates food, pollutes water with herbicides including atrazine; says

transition to regenerative organic dairying has begun with more than 200 Vermont farms refusing to plant "chemical-needy GMO corn"

Commentary: AlterNet's executive editor writes about attempts by Google and Facebook to combat "fake news," claims moves have hurt site's search traffic, notes other "progressive" and "radical" sites report similar declines, including Organic Consumers Association

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on call on federal government to adopt biotech to boost ag productivity by Nigeria Biotechnology Society's Vincent Tenebe, BSN's Benjamin Ubi, and Contec Global Agro Limited's Benoy Berry, at recent tour of Contec's tissue culture and microbiological labs

Commentary: NGO Food Sovereignty Ghana praises nation's first president, says visionary leadership such as his needed to demand accountability from government officials ignoring evidence that GMOs wrong for Ghana's agriculture, food production

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Nagpur Today editorial blames government for recent farmer deaths caused by pesticide inhalation, argues that if Bt cotton were effective, extra pesticide applications should not be necessary, calls on local administration to file a police complaint against seed and pesticide companies for misleading farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on farmers' concerns that upcoming Court of Justice ruling on new breeding techniques may be political rather than science-based, notes questions on whether mutagenesis should be considered GMO; Copa-Cogeca's Thor Kofoed voiced fear that the court will make a political decision

News: French news outlet reports on hearing before EU Court of Justice regarding regulation of products of mutagenesis, which Peasant Confederation labels as "hidden GMOs," the court will deliver its opinion by the end of the first quarter of 2018

Commentary: Italian news outlet editorial argues EU Court of Justice ruling on products of new breeding techniques has potential to change the continent's approach to biotech, amplifies concerns about off-target effects, and dismantling of the precautionary principle

Commentary: Anti-biotech Swiss NGO reacts to EU Commission's conference on "Modern Biotechnology in Agriculture," notes consumer groups and IFOAM advocate risk assessment of GE techniques on environment and human health, decision on possible GE legislation to have significant effect on European agriculture

News release: French Foundation for Nature and Man (FNH) welcomes establishment of General States of Food, calls for urgent policy changes, such as a ban on glyphosate, requirement for 50 percent pesticide use reduction by 2025, ban on "hidden GMOs," and application of precautionary principle

News: Independent (Ireland) reports on questions raised by growing demand for GM-free dairy, especially in Germany, for Irish producers, Glanbia Ireland's director of strategy, Sean Molloy noted importance of making sure that the trend is not just a fad, but long-term enough to warrant significant changes required

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Belgian news outlet contributor examines negative impact of increased use of GMOs and associated herbicides on human health and the environment, with focus on North American policies, and impact on South American communities

Commentary: Ecuadorian NGO reacts to Latin American Meeting of Maize held there, reports corn production now covers 90 percent of country's needs, thanks to use of hybrid technology, especially high-yield seed

News: Mexican news outlet reports on letter by foreign researchers and indigenous communities speaking out against transgenics, which they claim threaten biodiveristy, following recent Maize Forum in Cuetzalan, reproducing the letter in full

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included continued commentary on Europe's regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The food activist organization Slow Food summarized its recent congress, previewing efforts to be more inclusive of farmers in developing economies.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Organic activists continued to discuss Europe's efforts to regulate NBTs, following the European Commission's high-level conference on modern agricultural techniques last week. Calls for strict guidelines on NBTs were seen from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, as well as the Swiss Alliance for Agriculture without Genetic Engineering. **See more**
- Slow Food announced several new initiatives following the conclusion of its Seventh International Congress in Chengdu, China, this weekend. The organization announced that it was refocusing efforts to become more inclusive of farmers in developing regions, among other anti-industrial agriculture campaigns in Africa and worldwide. **See more**
- Consumers International launched its Green Action Week, calling for "Organic Food and Farming for All." Affiliated groups participating in the event include: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (Kenya and Uganda), Ethiopia's Institute for Sustainable Development, the Philippines' MASIPAG and Brazil's Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor. **See more**.

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North America

News: Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News reports on UC Riverside study which found that soybean oil from DuPont's Plenish variety causes less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but doesn't result in fewer incidences of diabetes or fatty liver

News: Iowa agriculture news source Wallaces Farmer amplifies American Soybean Association press release on dicamba drift damage, Iowa Soybean Association emphasizes call for independent, objective research

Commentary: Ohio ag news outlet contributor examines farmers' frustrations over biotech approval delays, noting its importance for decreasing input costs and boosting sustainability, highlights delays in approval of high-oleic soybean varieties, amplifying statements by United Soybean Board's Keith Kemp

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu of Every Woman Hope Centre writes for Nigerian news outlet, criticizing legal action brought by 17 NGOs against government agencies and Monsanto over GM cotton

and maize approvals, hopes court will make the right decision to support use of technology that protects health and environmental sustainability

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Audu Ogbeh's announcement that government will begin arresting those found to be selling fake and sub-standard seeds to farmers, he noted the government does not plan to adopt GM seeds at this time, as Nigerians are uncomfortable with the idea

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports ASARECA official challenges African governments to adopt agriculture technologies to help feed continent's growing population, warns successes of ag research haven't been translated into growth of farming, improved productivity

Commentary: Zambian news outlet agribusiness columnist argues that Zambia should fully embrace the non-GMO brand that has been created, calling for entrenchment of that brand in the minds of consumers, highlighting price advantages

More Africa items

Asia

News: Palestine News Network reports on Palestinian Federation of Agricultural Action Committees' (PCA) meetings to launch Palestinian farmers' movement to form representative body to defend farmers' rights, as part of larger movement opposing industrial ag practices that encourage use of chemicals and GM seeds

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) will host International Soy Conclave from October 7-8, topics will include pros and cons of biotech soy adoption, and whether it will boost productivity

Campaign: Motion from Slow Food's Seventh International Congress in Chengdu commits to supporting food sovereignty and food biodiversity, blames erosion of biodiversity on industrial ag practices such as GM crops

News release: Slow Food announces closure of its Seventh International Congress in Chengdu, culminating with signing of Declaration of Chengdu, confirming "need to fight for good, clean and fair food"

News: Times of India reports on Karnataka government's new biotech policy for boosting agricultural productivity, with focus on urgent need to address drought conditions in the region, IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge noted biotech will be crucial in developing chemical-free agriculture

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Luigi D'Andrea of Swiss Alliance for Agriculture Without Genetic Engineering writes for local news outlet, claims that if new breeding techniques are not regulated as GMOs, there would be no requirements for risk assessment, labeling, or traceability, threatening non-GMO agriculture

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU Vice President for Policy, Jan Plagge emphasized position of organic movement on new breeding techniques prior to high-level conference on modern ag biotech, arguing that all new GE techniques should be regulated as GMOs

News: Italian news outlet reports on Vincenzo Cappellini's open letter to Veneto Region Governor Luca Zaia, in which he argues it is "absurd and unforgivable" that Italian farmers cannot use GM seeds, pointing to health and environmental benefits, the letter is published in full

Campaign: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) describes its Green Action Week initiative from Oct. 2-8, in coordination with Consumers International (CI), with theme of "Organic food and farming for all"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Universidade de Sao Paulo reports bill in Congress would allow manufacturers to avoid putting yellow triangle with "T" on labels of products, which indicates they contain GMOs, if concentration less than 1 percent of product's composition; professor says no danger to public from GM foods

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on Green Party's achievements over its past 18 years in Parliament, Jeanette Fitzsimons points to Green support of Labor Party, resulting in GMO moratorium following Royal Commission of Inquiry on impacts of GE on New Zealand

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 2, 2017
Date: Monday, October 2, 2017 4:02:11 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Labeling and marketing campaigns can make consumers believe that organic and non-GMO foods are the safest and most healthy choice. But is that really the case? And are they the answer to solving problems with our food system? Those topics are discussed in the Stories Worth Sharing section of this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

Tactics used by organic marketers are also explored this week. Two articles examine an academic paper recently co-authored by U.S. Right to Know co-founder Gary Ruskin in a pay-for-play journal, while David Zaruk offers a list of 12 lies about pesticides that are spread by organic marketers.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you still need 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: Organic Valley

Organic Valley is one of the largest organic dairy marketers in the world with more than $1 billion in annual sales.

Organic Valley's 2017 marketing and advertising campaign is labeled "transparency" following on

Stories Worth Sharing

Ed White: Labels lead consumers to believe non-GMO and antibiotic-free foods are better, even if science doesn't show they are

Katherine Rich: Misleading claims in paper co-authored by Gary Ruskin amount to "peak social science silliness" ACSH's take

Jon Entine: Apocalyptic claims about bumblebees drew headlines despite contradicting actual facts

Julie Kelly: USDA report exposes failure to ensure "integrity and safety" of U.S. organic imports

Kavin Senapathy: Neil deGrasse Tyson defends "Food Evolution" documentary as being pro-science, not pro-GMO

Henry Miller: Golden rice the most "elegant and practical" approach to preventing vitamin-A deficiency

Tamar Haspel: Local and organic farms "can't solve" some of the problems with our food system

Amanda Zaluckyj: Organic foods are not safer or more nutritious, so don't spend more for them

Harish Damodaran: Indian farmers' "hunger for technology" evident in planting of unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton

its 2016 "authenticity"-themed branding initiative.

However, Organic Valley's marketing and advocacy activities may not walk the talk when scrutinized.

Learn more about Organic Valley HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Michelle Miller: Only flaw in "Food Evolution" documentary is too much air time for GMO opponents "known to not speak the truth"

David Zaruk: Twelve lies organic marketers spread about pesticides

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament set to vote on criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals after committee recommends rejection

Italy joins France in pledge to vote against reauthorization of glyphosate

Uganda Parliament expected to resume debate on biosafety bill this week

European Commission concludes high-level conference on plant breeding innovation

Calendar highlights

October	October 3-4	October 4
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tribal Pesticide Program Council meeting (Iowa)	Plenary vote on EDC criteria by European Parliament (Brussels)
October 5-6	**October 9-11**	**October 10**
EU member states and Commission discussion of glyphosate (Brussels)	Protecting Pollinators in Urban Landscapes conference (Michigan)	Wall Street Journal Global Food Forum (New York)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Crop Protection Snapshot - Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2017
Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 9 01:52 PM

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Global Crop Protection Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Weekend monitoring highlights included:

- We continue to see an abundance of European media speculation regarding the upcoming vote on glyphosate reauthorization and localized coverage out of France highlighting farm groups' responses, in addition to campaigning by Global 2000 asking the Austrian government to vote "no" on the proposal **See more**
- Continued news coverage of the European Parliament's decision to withdraw Monsanto's parliamentary access after the company refused to participate in an upcoming hearing to discuss allegations of industry influence over glyphosate assessments. **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 crop protection items, **click here**

Africa

News release: French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) announces successful sequencing of fall armyworm genome, opening up perspectives for new biological control methods, and improving understanding of mechanisms involved in pesticide resistance

News: Reunion TV station reports French farmers oppose government glyphosate ban, citing increased production costs, loss of income; notes island's cane growers use herbicide to clear land, not on crops

Study: South African Department of Water and Sanitation research finds concentrations of triazine herbicides in Hartbeespoort Dam catchment, suggest possible risk to humans and wildlife in light of findings of endocrine and immune disrupting atrazine effects by various researchers

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports team of scientists from have determined recent farmer deaths in Yavatmal district due to incorrect spraying practices

News: Times of India reports patients continue to "pour in" to Government Medical College (GMC) Yavatmal due to inhaling toxic pesticides sprayed on cotton, dean notes blood tests will help determine exact reason for toxic effects

News: Times of India reports Yavatmal Government Medical College and Hospital reports inflow of pesticide-hit farmers is starting to decline as agencies raise awareness of pesticide dangers among farmers; a total of 45 farmers have been admitted

Campaign: Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture representative launches Change.org petition criticizing federal, state governments for "turning a blind eye" to illegal use of glyphosate, GMO crops, demands ban on sale, use of glyphosate

News: Vietnamese news source reports on high mortality rate of paraquat poisoning victims, notes paraquat is slated for ban starting in 2019 but is still easily procured in the country

News: The Hindu - Seven more farmers die due to improper spraying of pesticide on cotton plants in Yavatmal district; head of government crop loan program blames indiscriminate spraying, lack of protective gear, and GMO cotton seeds

News: India news outlet reports city local entomologist is training farmers to breed natural predators, increase yield while avoiding pesticides

News: Punjabi news source reports EcoSikh NGO is urging religious kitchens to go organic in Punjab to stop pollution of land, water, eradicate poisons in food

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: National Institute for Agricultural Research interviews researcher associated with NutriNet-Santé study about findings suggesting adults who consume 62 percent of diet on organic have a 31 percent lower probability of having a metabolic syndrome compared to those who consume almost no organic food

News: EurActiv reports maize farmers stress need for "protecting science," lack of alternatives amid upcoming member votes on glyphosate, neonic renewals; notes EFSA risk assessment on neonics to be published in November, EU Commission plans to propose further restrictions

Commentary: Barcelona-based news site staff writer amplifies U.S. Right to Know claims that Jon Entine serves as a paid bodyguard for Monsanto, highlights atrazine work for Syngenta and against Tyrone Hayes, work to discredit IARC; piece labeled as part one of "Enemies of Food" series

Commentary: Cambridge technology stakeholder collaboration NGO highlights use of robotics, artificial intelligence in agriculture, suggests advancing technology, ultraprecision of chemical application will eventually require companies to evolve, focus more on specialized selective chemicals

News: Belgian news site reports pilot study finds presence of pesticides in air at school sites in village of Cortil-Wodon, though no health risks for children; SAMI asked to make diagnosis, while Greens group demands immediate measures to protect against risks

Commentary: Le Monde columnist Stephane Foucart cites industry influence of glyphosate EU risk assessment to argue use of industry documents as basis for regulatory reviews is untenable, moving away from practice would help industry avoid inevitable scandals that arise

Commentary: Writing for Atlantico, ag engineer asks if Nicolas Hulot is so conditioned by the militant ecological discourse about glyphosate that he forgets his position goes against the ecological transition he wants to promote

Commentary: Greenpeace International campaigner celebrates start of EU ban of fipronil use on crops, emphasizes fipronil's danger to bees, warns neonics are still on market, pose threats to bees, other pollinators

News: Irish news source reports farmers union rejects pesticide "scare," asserting 99.6 percent of water samples are compliant despite reports that pesticides in water incidences increased

Study: IRSERM research in Environmental Health Perspectives finds prenatal exposure to non-persistent endocrine disruptors including phthalates and several phenols links to behavioral issues in young boys, notes 2,4-D metabolite 2,4-dichlorophenol among substances

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Colombian columnist debunks criticism of GMOs as senseless, notes GMOs have been eaten worldwide for 20 years, notes scientific advances make herbicides safer

News: Reuters UK reports Colombian defense minister says Colombia must maintain eradication, substitution of coca crops as long-term policy, says reinstatement of glyphosate spraying has been ruled out, is "off the radar" because of cancer concerns

News: Reuters reports Monsanto seeks to retain its Intacta soybean technology following merger with Bayer, opponents of the merger call on Brazil's anti-monopoly watchdog Cade to block it or force divestments, including of Monsanto's new Intacta seed technology

Commentary: Writing for Brazilian news source, anti-pesticide activist criticizes ANVISA decision to institute 3-year phase out on paraquat vs immediate ban, claims 3-year delay will give Syngenta opportunity to fight the decision

Commentary: Brazil's National Association of Distributors of Agricultural and Veterinary Supplies says recent ANVISA paraquat ban needs clarification, recommends distributors check with state officials to ensure products can be marketed

More Latin America items

North America

Commentary: Natural News amplifies claims by Univ of Washington associate professor Sanne Knudsen suggesting consequences of exposure to most chemicals on the market are unknown, advocating for rules that protect against "cumulative risk" of pesticides, EDCs and other chemicals

News release: Center for Biological Diversity reports federal judge rules EPA failed to justify withholding more than 140 documents on harm to protected wildlife from Enlist Duo, indicating EPA must be more forthcoming in revealing science underpinning its decisions on pesticides' harms to endangered plants, animals

Commentary: ThinkProgress argues EPA's Scott Pruitt could save pesticide program intended to protect human health and ecosystems - used to identify chlorpyrifos risks - by cutting own expenses, noting Pruitt has spent upwards of $900,000 of taxpayer dollars on extraneous expenses

Commentary: U.S. law firm amplifies meeting schedule of EPA head Scott Pruitt, suggests decision to reverse chlorpyrifos ban based on financial benefits for Dow rather than "sound science," stresses responsibility of farm owners, labor contractors to protect workers from dangers of pesticide exposure

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies University of California, Berkeley study highlighting negative effect of climate change on microbial soil organisms, cites claims of pesticide-dependent ag methods weakening microbes, parasites essential to ecological systems, increasing likelihood of extinction

Commentary: Columnist for The Western Producer condemns marketing campaigns touting food raised without antibiotics or genetic modifications; notes claims have no relationship to food safety, human health; fears trend will make food no more healthier, but more expensive

Commentary: Natural News contributor amplifies CBS report claiming Henry Miller led Forbes readers to believe he had written pro-Roundup editorial when it had been drafted by Monsanto, calls Forbes a Monsanto propaganda rag

Commentary: Natural News contributor reports Flemish government decision to ban glyphosate in Belgian brings number of countries to ban the herbicide to five in wake of recent cancer lawsuit

News: Delta Farm Press reports on dicamba technology fallout during harvest season, notes Arkansas State Plant Board's next meeting is Nov. 8, will be open to public; board member says he's expecting huge turnout, lengthy meeting

Campaign: Institute for Responsible Technology's Jeffrey Smith promotes 2017 pesticide/GMO advocacy accomplishments to ask recipients to take survey to help direct programs

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association fundraising email suggests Google efforts to block fake news is helping Monsanto by limiting access to OCA website, other news sources providing information on health risks, corporate corruption

Commentary: Garden Island op-ed by Hawaii activist questions if Hartung Brothers' takeover of Syngenta's Kekaha operations will result in better stewardship, a voluntarily stop use of chlorpyrifos to support health, well-being of community

News release: Missouri Department of Agriculture issues notice of release for stop sale order for dicamba products labeled for ag use, allowing products originally ordered for use Missouri farmers for post-harvest burn down or pastureland

Audio: Monsanto executive Fraley tells NPR affiliate he expects dicamba use to double next year despite drift incidents damaging several million acres in Midwest, says problems with dicamba are easily fixable

More North America items

Oceania

There were no notable developments in the weekend monitoring of Oceania. Click below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 9 01:05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an upcoming hearing as a European Union court will decide whether products produced by mutagenesis should be considered GMOs. Russia's Agriculture Ministry is taking steps toward food independence by focusing on seed development. Uganda's Science and Technology Innovation minister said the country likely will pass its biosafety bill this week.

- Anti-biotech NGOs Friends of the Earth and Collective Vigilance GMO asked an EU court to decide whether mutagenesis-produced products should be regulated as GMOs. The hearing begins Tuesday (Oct. 3). **See more**
- *Bloomberg* reported the Russian Agriculture Ministry is promoting food independence in part by encouraging seed producers to develop domestic, hybrid seeds that mimic GMOs. However, the hybrids can take as long as 10 years to develop. **See more**
- The Cornell Alliance for Science reported Uganda Science Technology and Innovation Minister Elioda Tumwesigye said the country likely will approve its long-debated biosafety bill, creating a process for the country to commercialize GMOs. Ugandan news site *New Vision* urged Parliament to approve the bill to speed the country's research and release of varieties that can cope with global warming. **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: Cornell Alliance for Science reports Uganda is likely to pass its biosafety bill next week, according to Science Technology and Innovation Minister Elioda Tumwesigye, Uganda currently only follows south Africa in number of confined field trials

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association fundraising email suggests Google efforts to block fake news is helping Monsanto by limiting access to OCA website, other news sources providing information on health risks, corporate corruption

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan plant scientist Graham Scoles writes for Western Producer, calls for end to GMO regulations, notes years of research keeps finding the same result - that GMOs are safe for humans and the environment, voices concern that developing countries use valuable resources to develop regulatory systems
News: The Guardian reports backlash from environmental groups on GMO alternative to palm oil causes company to stop production, despite palm oil's negative environmental, social impacts; companies continue working on "sustainable" alternative
Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizing Smoothie King's Cleaner Blending initiative, noting its commitment to remove artificial flavors, colors and preservatives, hormones and GMOs will have no impact on their products' healthfulness or toxicity, notes the smoothies are very caloric, even without added sugars
Commentary: George Washington University International Affairs master's student examines potential for U.S.-China cooperation to address public distrust and boost food security, highlights impact of ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta on China's GMO regulations, believes GMOs provide health and

economic benefits

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports NBMA Director Rufus Ebegba says his agency is prepared to handle any adverse effects from GMOs

News: Ugandan news site reports Ministry of Agriculture official calls for passing Biosafety Bill to speed research, release of varieties that cope with global warming

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on African ag industry stakeholders' push for adoption of innovative technologies to tackle fall armyworm pest, John Awuku Dziwornu of Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association promotes use of Bt crop technology, noting it will help reduce chemical use

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports China develops new gene-edited rice variety free from cadmium pollution, project leader Yuan Longping noted the technology is a low-cost "major breakthrough"

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies two articles from Indian news outlets regarding pink bollworm's development of resistance to Bt cotton, highlighting argument that the pest's resistance is not confined to Maharashtra, claims refuge systems are ineffective

Commentary: George Washington University International Affairs master's student examines potential for U.S.-China cooperation to address public distrust and boost food security, highlights impact of ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta on China's GMO regulations, believes GMOs provide health and economic benefits

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Siang Hee Tan's recent call on regulators to develop better synergies with international counterparts, he also praised Pakistan government's vision and policy-position on technology adoption, especially regarding biotech

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.S. agricultural news site reports Spanish researchers developing GM wheat to produce gluten-free bread

Commentary: French pro-ag news site criticizes recent campaign by 15 NGOs, including Greenpeace, delivering over 110,000 petition signatures to Minister Nicolas Hulot against "new GMOs," notes the move was not covered by anyone, in spite of being sent to "all editorial offices," points to the groups' ignorance

Commentary: Czech news outlet contributor amplifies recent Polish study demonstrating that there is no difference between milk from cows fed GMOs vs non-GMO grain, argues market for GMO-free milk has been created artificially to benefit European farmers, noting consumers end up paying extra for no improvement in quality

News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on study published in Plant Biotechnology Journal, in which researchers were successfully able to use CRISPR to switch off 35 out of 45 genes that code for gliadins in wheat, responsible for severe autoimmune reactions in people with celiac disease

News: Bloomberg reports on Russian Agriculture Ministry's goal of promoting food independence by encouraging domestic seed development, Russian firms Ros Agro Plc and Oleg Deripaska's farm unit are

working on hybrid seeds that mimic yield advantages of GMOs, but can take up to a decade to develop

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission for refusing to allow European Network of Laboratories (ENGL), charged with detection and identification of GMOs, to evaluate new genetic modification techniques

News: Belgian news outlet reports on EU Green Party's demand that products of new plant breeding techniques be regulated and labeled as GMOs, on eve of high-level conference on modern agricultural biotechnology

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian agricultural news site reports study shows GM maize is key to increasing food production in Bolivia, notes farmers are using GM seed illegally

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent tests by Inta demonstrating that Monsanto's Intacta RR2 soybean technology has yield advantages throughout the country, Monsanto Argentina Manager of Soy Business, Luis Silva noted the results show a clear superiority of Intacta at the national level

News: Reuters reports Monsanto seeks to retain its Intacta soybean technology following merger with Bayer, opponents of the merger call on Brazil's anti-monopoly watchdog Cade to block it or force divestments, including of Monsanto's new Intacta seed technology

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on recent study showing Bolivia's potential to boost corn production from 900,000 to 2.5 million tons if GMOs are adopted, Agricultural Chamber of Small Producers of the East (Cappo) President Isidoro Barrientos noted it isn't possible to produce more without GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Scottish agricultural news site reports Science Media Centre survey finds GE technology "failures" and continued demand for GMO-free food stifles desire to end New Zealand's moratorium on GM crop cultivation

News release: GE Free New Zealand criticizes FSANZ approval for 6 GE potato varieties despite "many studies that show harm from eating GE foods," claims no evidence exists showing the GE potatoes are safe to eat

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 28, 2017
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 9:01:09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Uganda's Parliament will open debate on the country's 2012 draft biosafety law next week. European activists responded to the European Commission's high-level meeting on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- During Uganda's "High-level Conference on Application of Science, Technology and Innovation in Harnessing African Agricultural Transformation," the country's technology minister reported that Parliament was expected to resume debate on a proposed biosafety law next Tuesday (Oct. 3). The conference will conclude tomorrow. **See more**
- The European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER), a coalition of anti-corporate activists, issued a report saying that efforts to classify gene-edited crops as non-GMO were an attempt to undermine the precautionary principle. A coalition of French activists presented a petition calling on France's ecology minister to resist these efforts. **See more**
- News outlets in Pakistan amplified CropLife Asia statements highlighting the importance of agricultural biotechnology to the region and emphasizing the need for outreach to farmers and predictable regulatory processes. The statements were reported within the context of a recent Workshop on Advances in Agricultural Biotechnology and Regulatory Affairs. **See more**
- A coalition of environmental groups in Ecuador announced that it had submitted a fifth claim arguing that the country's seed law was unconstitutional. In the latest lawsuit, the groups argue that the process for introducing the law had violated legislative principles because civil groups were not consulted on the draft law. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Reuters reports two lawsuits against Syngenta brought by Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland are still pending, following Syngenta's recent $1.5 billion settlement with farmers, Washburn University School of Law ag law professor Roger McEowen notes the grain handlers' claims are uniquely different

Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News reports Ag Secretary Perdue proposes moving U.S. Codex office from food safety to trade dept., food safety NGO, former officials say move will threaten food safety standards, U.S. food safety credibility due to trade influence

Commentary: Maryland soybean farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, extending New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady an invitation to her farm to clear up concerns about GMOs raised in his new health book

Commentary: Vegan communications professor writes in Civil Eats that synthetic meat could pave the way to food system without animals, engaging vegans and meat-lovers, removing animal cruelty, diet-related disease, addressing food security, moving towards more environmental farming practices

Commentary: Agrimarketing syndicates July U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) CEO op-ed accusing Non-GMO Project of creating 'fake news' at the grocery store, noting many products carrying the Non-GMO Project verified seal do not have GM versions available on the market

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Parliament could pass country's biosafety bill by the week's end; agriculture minister says any controversy is due to lack of information

News: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on African ag industry stakeholders' push for adoption of innovative technologies to tackle fall armyworm pest, John Awuku Dziwornu of Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association promotes use of Bt crop technology, noting it will help reduce chemical use

Announcement: Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network announces it recently participated in JPIC workshop in Benin, secretariat presented on international forces driving land grabs, including G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, another presentation was given on agroecology

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's dismissal of impression that GMOs are poisonous, blaming silence of scientists for giving anti-GMO sentiment the upper hand, and noting arguments must be based on "scientific evidence not rumours, emotions, sympathy or hearsay"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports farmers planting more expensive, unapproved GM cotton tolerant to herbicide as Bt cotton's efficacy has dropped

News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports on visit by CropLife Asia Executive Director Tan Siang-Hee, who emphasized need to educate Pakistani farmers about benefits of biotech, Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan noted use of biotech is under consideration

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Tan Siang-Hee's recent recommendation that Pakistan introduce biotech to boost farm production beyond self-sufficiency, calling on Minister of National Food Security and Research to introduce biotech regulations

News: Manila Times reports Monsanto exec defends safety, promotes benefits of GM crops at joint media forum, highlighting quality of GM crop yields, crops' need for fewer pesticides

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: NGO coalition submit petition with 100K+ signatures opposing new GMOs to France environment minister, demand new GMOs fall under existing GMO regulation

Announcement: ENSSER publishes detailed statement presenting arguments for regulation NBT-produced products as GMOs, says NBT proponents want to "move from precaution to proof of harm"

Announcement: EU Parliament's environment committee passes resolution opposing EU Commission's approval of two GM soy, herbicide-tolerant varieties

News: Politico reports EU Parliament committee votes to oppose EU Commission's approval of two GM soy varieties, claiming herbicide-tolerant strains will increase pesticide spraying, gaps in assessment; full Parliament to vote on nonbinding resolutions

News: Italian news outlet reports on recent debate organized by Pro-Test Italy as part of European

Biotech Week 2017, featuring several biotech industry reps and scientists in discussion on various topics, including agriculture, agro-food, ecology, human rights, Greenpeace, research and technology

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadorian green news site reports on recent submission of fifth claim of unconstitutionality of Ecuador's seed law by academics and various NGOs, attorney Victor Rivadeneira argues unconstitutionality on basis of procedural defects, as well as violation of legislative principles

News: Ecuadoran news site reports groups file fifth lawsuit against law allowing biotech research in the country; claims law violates Constitution

News release: Regeneration International, project of Organic Consumers Association, announces its second General Assembly addresses state of the regeneration movement, with focus on how to scale up organic and regenerative agriculture, and how to address global warming, food security and public health

Campaign: Uruguay-based Network of Social Technology Assessment (TECLA) launches its website, providing space to share information on resistance to harmful technologies

Commentary: Blogger for Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) recounts seminar on agroecology organized by National Seminary of the Florestan Fernandes (ENFF), for members of La Via Campesina, highlighting MST member's hope that the event will inspire workers to continue fighting the capital

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 - Sept. 27, 2017
Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 9 01:16 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included Syngenta's announcement that it had agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit with U.S. farmers over its Viptera maize launch.

- Syngenta announced that it had reached a tentative settlement with U.S. farmers over trade disruptions during the company's launch of its Agrisure Viptera and Agrisure Duracade corn traits. The news was widely reported, and several articles noted that the deal did not include Canadian farmers nor did it include lawsuits brought by exporters Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. **See more**
- In an interview with local news outlet *Starr FM*, Ghana Agriculture Minister Afriyie Akoto rejected claims that he had called for cultivation of GM crops in the country. Akoto added that the country already had several improved, non-GMO seed varieties available to local farmers. **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: Syngenta announces settlement in litigation concerning launch, approval of company's Agrisure Viptera and Duracade corn traits; says settlement will prevent uncertainty of ongoing litigation

News: Wire services report Syngenta settles tens of thousands of lawsuits by US farmers over its release of Viptera GM corn variety prior to receiving Chinese approval, resulting in rejected shipments, terms of the settlement have not been disclosed

News: Reuters reports on how GM crop technology has contributed to oversupply of corn, leading to falling prices and farmer incomes, highlights Monsanto spokeswoman Trish Jordan's statement that demand growth still justifies corn expansion, disputing argument that crop science advances are backfiring on agricultural technology firms

News: Food & Wine reports on Aarhus University study which found that consumers who purchase organic milk are unlikely to go back to conventional milk, and are more likely to shift all of their purchases to organic, researcher John Thogersen noted "we build an identity around the notion of buying organic products"

News: CBC reports on controversy surrounding lack of labeling requirement on recently approved GE salmon, Sylvain Charlebois of Dalhousie University argues AquaBounty's lack of transparency mirrors mistakes made by Monsanto and others, which he argues are "out of step" with consumer concerns

News release: University of North Carolina announces faculty scientist receives $25,000 grant from Gates Foundation to improve genomic breeding approaches for the East African banana

Commentary: Boulder county-based agronomist/economist writes opinion piece for local news outlet, criticizes county commissioners' for lack of transparency in attempting to fund research to support their predetermined conclusion that GM crops are not sustainable, noting their real goal is to replace current

systems with organic ag

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria TV station amplifies National Bio-safety Management Agency director NAN interview comments asserting biotech is key to driving economic growth in the country

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports National Biosafety Management Agency director interview comments ensure agency is prepared to tackle any adverse effects of GMOs, urges citizens not to fear GM products

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Elioda Tumwesigye's recent speech at Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (UBBC) meeting, where he encouraged scientists to use the church to educate people about benefits of modern biotech, such as improved nutrition

Commentary: Writing for African Centre for Biodiversity, EcoJustice activist urges Malawi civil NGOs to call on ag ministry to postpone adoption of impending seed policy, alter framework to support seed sovereignty

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ag Minister Afriyie Akoto's recent statement that Ghana does not need GM seeds, noting Ghanaian scientists have developed at least 45 improved seed varieties without use of GM technology, and that claim that he supports introduction of GMOs is a misconception spread by political opponents

News: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni's recent endorsement for urgent need to use biotech so that Uganda is not left behind, noting activists should not be allowed to continue confusing legislators, and that scientists will not be able to solve major crop stressors without it

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Karnataka state government's launch of new biotech policy, encouraging investments and research in emerging technologies such as synbio, with goal of capturing large share of growing bio-economy market

News: Filipino news outlet reports Monsanto Philippines exec tells local media forum country is on track to become exporter of GM corn

News release: Israeli companies Evogene and Rahan Meristem announce positive results in second year of field trials of Black Sigatoka disease-resistant banana, which goal of using the results to apply gene editing, with end product targeted for non-GMO classification to reduce regulatory barriers and improve market access

News: Pakistan's Express Tribune reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Siang Hee Tan's recent call for independent, science-based, transparent and predictable regulatory system for Pakistan's farmers to benefit from modern ag technologies and improve sustainability

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on biotech industry's call on EU Commission to show leadership regarding regulation of new breeding techniques, some worry that Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis' decision not to make concluding remarks at upcoming conference shows Commission reluctance to take a leading role

News: Chemistry World reports Merkel party path to parliamentary majority through partnership with parties holding opposing views on gene editing may delay policy progress on the technology

News: New Scientist reports on UK-based PBL-Ventures' development of GM wheat that does not produce forms of gluten that negatively impact people with celiac disease, highlights Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in Cordoba, Spain's work to use CRISPR to rid wheat of gliadins

Interview: Italian ag news outlet interviews Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources (Ibbr) researcher, Roberto Defez, who points to scientific consensus on GMO safety; notes many studies allegedly demonstrating harm come from Italian activists and calls for allowing field trials

News: Agenzia ANSA reports Italian GM corn farmer Giorgio Fidenato acquitted of charges he violated GMO ban in 2014; Fidenato seeks same pronouncement for 2015 charges, plans lawsuit for damages from destroyed crops

Commentary: Writing in Publico, activists with Ecologistas en Accion warn that free-trade agreement with Canada could undermine European regulations on GMO labeling and pesticide residues

News release: Greenpeace, IATP analysis warns CETA threatens EU food standards by opening door to Canada's GM salmon, loose GM labeling laws and US GM, antibiotic/hormone-treated foods that could enter EU through Canada

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Swiss news outlet reports on recent testimony by Colombian activist German Velez from Grupo Semillas, before UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expert committee, he claimed Colombia imports and cultivates GMOs without control, leading to loss of biodiversity

Commentary: Writing for the Ecuador rural development project OCARU, activist summarizes food sovereignty demands of Provincial Union of Peasant Organizations of Manabi; says country's seed law could encourage transgenic production

Event: Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina to host discussion on impacts of consumption of GM, conventional and organic food on society health (Oct. 3)

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian science magazine editorial praises Food Evolution documentary following recent screening and panel discussion in Canberra, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, points to benefits of GM cotton in reducing Australia's pesticide use, notes anti-GMO sentiment negatively impacts farmers in Africa

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 9:03:01 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 centered on EU activities, as government and advocacy stakeholders prepared for the high-level meeting Thursday (Sept. 28) on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

Background highlights on the event include:

- A booklet accompanying the European Commission's agenda for the meeting highlighted the commission's goal to encourage innovation in Europe while ensuring "safe use" of new agricultural technologies. Scheduled contributors to the conference include representatives of Via Campesina, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and Greenpeace. Academic and industry groups will also be represented (**see more**).
- In late April, the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism issued an explanatory note on NBTs. The report indicated that so-called gene-editing techniques were more precise than both previous genetic modification technologies and conventional plant breeding through mutagenesis (**see more**).
- In the past year, several EU member scientific academies have come to similar conclusions. France's High Council on Biotechnology generated significant controversy when it recommended last year that new plant breeding techniques not be regulated under GMO regulations (**see more**). The Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences issued a similar report last summer (**see more**). More recently, at an informal meeting Dutch MEPs urged member countries to exempt NBTs from current EU GMO regulations (**see more**).

For our complete monitoring coverage on the new plant breeding techniques debate, **click here**.

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North America

News: Associated Press reports on Oregon Court of Appeals' ruling upholding lower court decision that Josephine County's GM crop ban is preempted by state law, Mary Middleton of Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families conceded defeat, but vowed to keep seeking change at legislative level

News: Capital Press reports on Oregon Court of Appeals ruling upholding lower court's decision to block Josephine County's GM ban, Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families executive director Mary Middleton noted they will not pursue further litigation, but will focus on repealing the pre-emption statute

Commentary: Writing in The Hill, Henry I Miller amplifies Global Farmer Network call for Golden Rice approval, criticizes Greenpeace 'machine' for opposing the technology

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, amplifies Neil DeGrasse Tyson's recent comments in response to online criticism of Hulu for showing Food Evolution documentary, in which he noted the film is pro-science but not specifically pro-GMO, pointed out Whole Foods' 2016 revenue was higher than Monsanto's

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for Ag Daily in support of Food Evolution documentary, noting her only criticism is that it may be too balanced, acknowledges importance of presenting the

opposing argument, notes well-funded anti-GMO activists probably don't deserve such a platform

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies recently released USDA study raising questions about feasibility of electronic disclosures for GMOs, highlighting several challenges raised regarding accessibility, claims GMOs pose risks that are not considered by regulators

More North America items

Africa

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity and Third World Network publish FAQ document on Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, questioning whether transgenic drought tolerance traits will really add drought protection, and noting MON 810 is being phased out elsewhere due to resistance, promotes agroecological solutions

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on lawsuit against federal government brought by 17 NGOs, seeking revocation of permits granted for confined field trials of a Monsanto GM maize variety, claiming that National Biotechnology Development Agency violated "fundamental human rights of the general public"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Food Navigator reports on American Embassy ag rep Scott Sindelar's call on India to embrace GM soybean at recent conference, noting it will not be able to meet domestic demand otherwise

News: Korean news outlet reports on concern about spread of GM oilseed rape following discovery of contamination in Gyeongnam, Busan, and Ulsan, highlights government measures to prevent such contamination from reoccurring

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on establishment of Federal Food Safety Authority, which will help facilitate development of technologies related to food security, according to Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikander Bosan, speaking at recent ag biotech workshop

News: Pakistan Observer reports on Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Adbul Basit's recent statement that the "21st century belongs to Biotechnology," pointing to Pakistan's potential to be a biotech leader, but noting cooperation between private sector, scientists, researchers and government is key

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on recent workshop on ag biotech advances at Forman Christian College University, Lahore, FCCU Post Graduate Studies Dean Kauser Abdullah Malik highlighted several of FC College University's achievements in biotech research

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on House of Representatives' proposed amendments to law on Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine, finding the old law is no longer appropriate given science and technology developments, the strengthened quarantine law will cover GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: Greenpeace France and several other NGOs launch petition calling for EU's strict regulation of products of new breeding techniques, pointing to potential health and environmental risks, and lack of labeling requirements should they go unregulated

Event: EU Commission to host September 28 conference on "Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture - Paving the way for responsible innovation," featured speakers include Vytenis Andriukaitis, Janusz Bujnicki, Tarmo Tamm and Phil Hogan

Interview: EurActiv interviews UN FAO's Deputy Director-General, Daniel Gustafson, he believes that GMOs are not needed to meet global food production needs, but encourages openness to biotech, argues agroecology should be part of long-term agricultural strategy

News: Italian news outlet reports on Pordenone Tribunal's clearing Giorgio Fidenato of any crime, following EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs, Fidenato will seek compensation for moral and material damages, as five hectares were destroyed, in addition to legal fees

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: Government of La Pampa, Argentina, announces recent Regional Seminar of Organic Production in city of Lincoln, with goal of presenting organic production as a sustainable, high-value productive strategy, Director General of Productive Planning, Belén Paesani pointed to niche market for GMO and pesticide-free foods

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor examines opposition to GMOs and associated pesticides throughout Latin American, pointing to negative impacts of GM crop production in several countries, highlights recent Brazilian Congress of Agroecology, where participants discussed alternatives for improving agriculture

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Australian reports on booming GM-free corn industry amid increasing interest from South Korea, consumers seek out Australia's "clean-green" brand and labeling confirming that the corn is non-GMO, Un Hwan Yum of South Korean milling company Dong-il noted many Korean consumers view GMOs as "Frankenstein" foods

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 new advocacy activity in Europe, where anti-biotechnology stakeholders are preparing for the European Commission's upcoming meeting on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- German anti-biotechnology group Testbiotech issued a new report today warning that gene-editing technologies were not as safe as traditional crop breeding or mutagenesis, despite efforts to portray NBTs as more precise than previous gene-modification techniques. Testbiotech added that allowing crops developed through NBTs onto the market without regulation would put regional biodiversity at risk; the report appears to target participants in the upcoming European Commission's high-level conference on modern biotechnologies in agriculture, scheduled for Thursday (Sept. 28). **See more**
- Ghanaian news outlets reported on the inauguration of Board of Directors for Ghana's National Biosafety Authority. Speaking at the event, Ghana's minister of environment, science, technology and innovation downplayed activist claims about so-called "terminator" seeds and emphasized that the biosafety agency would only commercialize beneficial seed traits. **See more**
- Brazil's Luzia de Paula issued a statement promoting a bill that would restrict the use of GM ingredients in school meals served in the country's Federal District. The bill has been in the legislature since 2015 and is still awaiting approval from the Constitution and Justice Commission (CCJ). de Paula had previously promoted the bill in August. **See more**
- In the U.S., food certification agency FoodChain ID previewed October's "Non-GMO Month" advocacy. The company highlighted CEO David Carter's availability for media interviews on consumer support for non-GMO verification. **See more**

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North America

News release: Global ID Group announces FoodChain ID CEO and non-GMO expert David Carter is available for comment during observation of Non-GMO Month in October, FoodChain ID has verified more than 50,000 products for over 2,500 clients in over 100 countries as part of Non-GMO Project's program

Commentary: Center for Science in the Public Interest Biotechnology Director Gregory Jaffe summarizes US GMO food disclosure law, highlighting various options for manufacturers, as well as exemptions under the law, notes the disclosures have nothing to do with food safety

News: American Agriculturist reports on denial of funding for University of Arizona's continued research of a GM corn variety that is 100 percent effective in preventing aflatoxin formation, lead researcher Monica Schmidt noted the trait is extremely important as it could save lives and increase food supply

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA Amanda Zaluckyj explains why readers don't need to spend more money buying organic food, notes all food production methods use pesticides, which are strictly regulated by EPA, points to research showing lack of nutritional advantage, notes organic production uses more resources to produce less food

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng's call on National Biosafety Authority Board to engage in public biotech and biosafety education in order to address misconceptions about GMOs, noting Ghana cannot develop without biotech

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment and Science Minister Kwabena Frimpong Boateng's assurance that introduction of GM crops will help farmers, and that terminator technology will not be allowed, noting any GM crops introduced onto the market will be helpful

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on appointment of pro-GMO activist and Every Woman Hope Centre (EWHC) founder, Edel-Quinn Ijeoma Agbaegbu, as a Biosafety Ambassador at recent National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) conference

Commentary: Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu of Nigerian NGO Every Woman Hope Centre recenlty presented a paper at National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) Third National Biosafety Conference, argues opposition to biotech and its proper regulation contributes directly to continued growth of poverty and hunger

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on NARO scientists' development of armyworm resistant Bt maize variety, Agriculture state minister Christopher Kibazanga described the news as a great breakthrough for Uganda

Commentary: Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) writes for local news outlet, warning about planned review of Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy of 2003, which they claim could lead to decreased liability for biotech companies, points to lawsuits against Monsanto in the US regarding glyphosate's toxicity

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on plans by 7,000 farmers and entire network of National Committee for Agrarian Reform (KNPA) to assemble at Merdeka Palace within framework of National Farmers Day to demand agrarian reform

News: Asian Age reports on government official's admission to a Parliamentary panel that absence of a mandated labeling system is resulting in uncontrolled circulation of GM foods on the market, Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury lamented that no human health studies on GM foods have been conducted

News: Pakistan Today reports on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sikander Bosan's announcement of government plans to establish Federal Food Safety Authority, with goal of facilitating development of food technologies, speaking at recent biotech workshop at Forman Christian College, Lahore

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech announces publication of new report on risks of new GE methods such as gene editing, author Christoph Then argues uncontrolled applications threaten biodiversity, consumers' and farmers' rights, and the future of animal and plant breeding

News: Flemish information center for agriculture and horticulture (VILT) reports on farmer Jimmy De Prins' successful cultivation of experimental soybean plots, as part of collaborative project between ILVO, AVEVE and Alpro, AVEVE notes it fits with their strategic choice of non-GMO soybeans

Commentary: "Risk Monger" David Zaruk writes for European Seed, argues that capturing the public's imagination on benefits and goals of biotech will be a more effective way of improving public opinion than continuing to focus on scientific consensus, noting any consensus will always be challenged

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian District MP Luzia de Paula introduces bill to prohibit use of transgenic products in school meals in Federal District's public school system, citing health reasons

Commentary: Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) promotes Political Charter of the 16th Agroecology Conference, highlights event celebrating hybrid seeds and criticizing practices that impact rural and urban workers; full charter includes criticism of transgenic crops

News: Argentinian ag news outlet reports on partnership between Porta and Bioceres to develop chymosin, an enzyme used in cheese making, from GM safflower seeds, Bioceres CEO Federico Trucco noted it enables more efficient and stable production

Commentary: Argentinian news outlet editorial amplifies ETC Group researcher Silvia Ribeiro's recent speech at "Mother Earth Intercontinental Meeting, a single health," highlighting her claims about dangers of agroindustry concentration and novel risks to humans and the environment posed by gene editing

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on Western Australia farmer Bill Crabtree's recent comments regarding review of Australia's Gene Technology Scheme (GTS), he noted Australian farmers are being denied access to valuable technologies because of onerous and expensive regulatory hurdles

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 25, 2017
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:04:39 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As European regulators move closer to making decisions on the future of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features discussion of how the wrong policies can have real consequences. There's also an examination of the EU's governance of GMOs, coinciding with the observance of European Biotech Week.

Other articles take a closer look at issues in U.S. oversight of organic imports, delays in approving biotechnology in Uganda and former *Reuters* reporter Carey Gillam's upcoming book.

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: Carey Gillam

Former journalist turned activist for the organic industry-funded group U.S. Right to Know, Carey Gillam has written a book alleging a conspiracy of undue industry influence between global government regulatory bodies, scientific and medical professional associations and independent university

Stories Worth Sharing

Daniel Guéguen: If European leaders fail to follow EFSA guidance on glyphosate, it creates "unnecessary disorder and bad governance"

Hank Campbell: Lax oversight of U.S. organic imports has not caused health problems because organic foods have no advantages

Colin Bettles: "Food Evolution" documentary reveals "intellectual dishonesty, logical manipulations and dark arts" used to block GMOs

Michael Raine: Carey Gillam should no longer be called a journalist, but she could be called "dead wrong"

Isaac Ongu: Ugandan MPs should "instill confidence in the masses about the safety of GMOs"

Dennis Eriksson and Roberto Defez: Does EU want to be governed by science or prejudice when it comes to GMOs?

Lawsuit seeks release of U.S. NIEHS documents related to participation in International Agency for Research on Cancer glyphosate review

Gary Truitt: Dicamba ban would be "unfortunate overreaction," need for technology to control resistant weeds is evident

Survey commissioned by Bayer finds most U.K. farmers believe costs would rise, yields would fall if EU bans neonics

academics.

Titled "Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science," it is due for release on Oct. 10. Articles interviewing Gillam and previewing the book have already begun.

Learn more about Gillam and her activism HERE.

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Annette Maggi: "What's not to love" about Arctic apples that taste great and reduce food waste?

John Batchelor Show interviews Henry Miller about repercussions of European neonic and glyphosate regulations

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What's Trending?

Task Force on Systemic Pesticides releases update to 2014 neonic assessment, makes new push for Canadian ban

French farmers demonstrate on Champs-Elysees over government's opposition to glyphosate reauthorization

Arkansas regulators move toward banning dicamba despite opposition from farmers

California appeals court overturns approval of two Valent dinotefuran products, reversing lower court's ruling

Calendar highlights

September 25-27	September 25-28	September 26-28
17th Euro Biotechnology Congress (Berlin)	Agricultural Bioscience International Conference 2017 (Winnipeg, Canada)	Women in Agribusiness Summit (Minneapolis)
September 26-27	**September 27**	**September 28**
Embrapa Symposium on Agriculture and the Environment (Jaguariúna, Brazil)	European Confederation of Maize Production conference (Brussels)	European Conference on Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture (Brussels)

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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 Biotechnology Week events, discussions on biotech's impact on trade agreements and Peru's Environment Ministry presenting a report on the country's GMO moratorium.

- Global Biotech Week began Sept. 20 as Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, said biotechnology is central to Canada's environmental and economic transformation. **See more on Global Biotechnology Week** European Biotechnology Week begins this week, including a meeting in Milan, "Who's Afraid of GMOs?" and a "Run for Biotech" event in Brussels Oct. 1. **See more on European Biotechnology Week**

- A Friends of the Earth blog noted its trade analyst said renegotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) could open loopholes that could restrict the European Union's ability to regulate neonicotinoids and GM labeling. An Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy official said the NAFTA renegotiations lack transparency and noted one trade group wants the treaty to address differing standards on pesticides, organic agriculture and agricultural biotechnology. **See more**

- A report from Peru's Environment Ministry noted advantages and disadvantages of introducing GM crops into the country. A biotech specialist noted a baseline survey would examine income farmers could receive from some GM crop varieties. The report also cautioned there is a risk that GM crop introduction could alter Peru's diverse environment. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: New York news site reports GM moth trial in Ontario County raises hopes it will control diamondback moth, while organic farmers fear environmental impact, loss of organic certification

News: Western Producer reports on Kevin Folta's libel lawsuit against New York Times for reporting that he was a paid Monsanto operative misrepresenting safety, purpose and efficacy of GMOs, Folta argues the article has damaged his reputation as a scientist, NYT stated they will defend the lawsuit "vigorously"

News: CNN Money reports consumer preferences for healthier products and food without GMOs hurt General Mills' cereal, yogurt sales

Commentary: Friends of the Earth blog provides excerpts from appearance on Progressive Radio Network program by senior trade analyst, who claims renegotiation of NAFTA could provide loopholes for neonics and GMO labeling

Commentary: Food and nutrition expert Annette Maggi writes for Huffington Post, asks "what's not to love?" about biotech and Arctic Apples, notes the apples are perfectly safe and will help reduce food waste, believes they may help improve consumer opinions of the technology

News: Maine news site reports restaurant to feature Impossible veggie burger, synthetic meat made with GM ingredients

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency director says decisions on biotech health and environmental safety must be science-based, urges scientists to communicate biotech benefits to consumers

News release: Ugandan Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation announces Sept. 22 conference to showcase science's potential impact on the country, including integrating biotech into agriculture to improve food security

News: Illinois news outlet reports on Cornell Alliance for Science's Leadership Course for Farmers 2017 in Rock Island, Alliance director Sarah Evanega noted importance of farmers being able to advocate for biotechnology with scientific backing, Ugandan farmer Kaleb Kamure Titia noted opposition to GMOs harms farmers in his area

Report: Report in South African publication Farmer's Weekly, "Commercial GM crops: 20 years of success," examines the genetic modification process and its application throughout the world, written by Biosafety South Africa executive manager Hennie Groenewald

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on installation by artist Dayananda depicting traditional rice planting methods, Dayananda claims Green Revolution pesticides destroyed the soil and that GM seeds have led to disappearance of traditional rice varieties and planting methods

Report: Report in Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture provides overview of GM crop governance in Malaysia, with focus on issues and challenges, noting GM research activities in Malaysia are still in the early stages

News: FAO reports meeting in Malaysia focuses on biotech in sustainable food systems, features videos featuring examples of biotech meeting smallholders' needs

News: Indian news outlet reports on USDA Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, Scott Sindelar's statement at recent US Soyabean Export Council (USSEC) conference, in which he encouraged India to increase soybean production to meet demand, including embracing GMOs and allowing foreign imports

Report: Feed the Future South Asia Eggplant Improvement Project report summaries Bt eggplant development in India, the Philippines and Bangladesh, highlighting roadblocks encountered in the former two, and success in the latter

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on controversy surrounding CETA deal, highlighting French media coverage over concerns about GE salmon, GMOs and pesticides in general and hormones

Report: Wageningen publishes book entitled "Towards a new regulatory framework for GM crops in the European Union," examining wide range of scientific, ethical, social and legal issues and challenges, exploring what needs to be done to ensure sustainable development of biotechnology in the EU

News release: CRIIGEN announces victories in lawsuits against the press, giving the group wins in seven defamation cases against Seralini, notes upcoming lawsuit on Oct. 19 for forgery to damage

Seralini's reputation

News: Russia Today questions whether Greenpeace crusade has descended into hypocrisy, notes Nobel laureates note organization's campaigns against GMOs are counterproductive regarding climate change efforts

News: Euronews reports on food safety concerns raised as CETA deal comes into force, Greenpeace's Saskia Richartz argued CETA could force EU to weaken standards on hormones and animal cloning, and noted difficulty in detection of GMOs in shipments due to lack of traceability and labeling requirements in Canada

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Colombian news site columnist says GM crops spread "like a plague" despite 37 countries banning them; says increasingly large sector questions biotech use due to damage to environment and economics for peasants

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent Farming Dialog organized by Bayer CropScience in Monheim, Germany, where Bayer's Liam Condon warned that emotionalism, populism and political polarization are threatening acceptance of modern science

Commentary: Brazilian news site reports Landless Workers Movement commemorates Agroecology Day by re-enacting event in which it claims leader opposing biotechnology was murdered by agribusinesses

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent conversation with Monsanto's Robb Fraley on gene editing, which Fraley describes as a more accurate tool than that used with transgenic plants, believes it will enable production of better, more nutritious food

News: Bolivian news site reports government, ag chamber resume talks on using GM seeds; chamber leader argues Bolivian farmers losing competitiveness because they can't use GM seed

News: Brazilian news site reports Landless Workers Movement, other groups support replacing biotech crops using agroecology during Sept. 23 Agroecology Day, look forward to "poison-free" agriculture

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian agricultural publication reporter says "Food Evolution" documentary exposes anti-GM movement's intellectual dishonesty, manipulations, pseudo-science

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on recent speech by Bayer's Liam Condon in Monheim, Germany, in which he announced plans to take lessons from Monsanto's past issues with public confidence, including launch of a new website with explanatory information and safety data on all its products

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 new statements on the EU's regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Activist commentary on the provisional implementation of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) continued.

- Greenpeace France called on supporters to sign a petition asking the French government to maintain strict GMO regulations on so-called new plant breeding techniques (NBTs), noting that the European Commission is hosting a Sept. 28 meeting on the issue. Writing in *The Parliament Magazine*, German MEP Norbert Lins called for Europe to rethink ideological opposition to plant breeding innovation and pursue a more pragmatic approach to the technology. **See more**
- Media outlets in the EU continued to report on today's provisional implementation of CETA. A coalition of NGOs, including Friends of the Earth and Corporate Europe Observatory, issued a report claiming that the agreement puts European food standards and environmental protections at risk. **See more**
- In Nigeria, controversy continued over the National Biosafety Management Agency's announcement that a shipment of GM maize had been stopped from entering the country. *The Authority* reported on criticism from the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF); similarly, in *Punch*, the coordinator of the Centre for Renewable Energy Nigeria warned that the announcement indicated there were likely illegal GM products already on the market. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Biotechnology Innovation Organization reminds readers only nine GMO crops on U.S. market today, with GMO apples becoming available in some markets Oct. 1; only GMO crops available as whole produce are sweet corn, summer squash, papayas and potatoes

Campaign: Seattle-based NGO and Washington state Indian tribe issue joint statement in support of Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act, include form letter for citizens to send to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., urging her to support Senate Bill 1529

Commentary: Class Action examines Bayer-Monsanto merger, details company backgrounds, highlighting development of glyphosate marred by safety concerns, neonics linked to bee deaths, dicamba blamed for damaging non-target crops, suggests history indicates reasons to fear merger

Campaign: Alliance for Natural Health USA notes USDA report on digital codes notes significant deficiencies, urges readers to contact Congress to urge them to support clear GM labeling system

Interview: Successful Farming magazine runs interview with Bayer global R&D head highlighting company's efforts to keep neonics on the market, develop gene-editing techniques, create new modes of action for herbicides and respond to climate change

Commentary: Farm Bureau media specialist gives guide on keeping social media interaction positive even when the other side goes negative, emphasizing factual information, acknowledging when other side has a point

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Zimbabwean farmer Ruramiso Mashumba writes for Global Farmer Network, describing her efforts to advocate for women in farming, she notes Zimbabwean farmers are ready to embrace GMOs, pointing to many benefits such as pest-resistance, drought-tolerance and higher yields

News: Nigerian newspaper reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation calls for extra vigilance on part of National Biosafety Management Agency and security agencies in face of alleged importation of GM maize into country; group says there may be other undetected arrivals of unauthorized GM foods into Nigeria

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba's assurance that the agency will ensure that import of unsafe GMOs will not be allowed, calling on the public to trust in government leadership

Commentary: Centre for Renewable Energy Nigeria coordinator writes in Nigerian news site op-ed that the unauthorized GM maize shipment stopped by the NBMA shows "we can be sure" other GMOs made it into the country; quotes Russian official saying GMOs can "cause tumors, cancer"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on lawsuit filed by 17 NGOs against National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), seeking revocation of confined field trials of Monsanto's GM maize variety, and an injunction preventing any activity pursuant to permits granted by NBMA

Interview: Agriculturalist Isaac Ongu interviews Ugandan science reporter Christopher Bendana for Genetic Literacy Project, Bendana emphasizes importance of reporting the facts, voices confidence in the science behind biotech

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, amplifying recent column by Dr. Ian Clark in support of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, places partial blame on government for lack of proper information about GMOs in the public

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan education official calls for increased funding of science, technology development in Africa, notes how biotechnology transforming business practices around world, could improve lives of continent's poor; ISAAA's Africa director calls on ag scientists to engage public about innovations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Roberto Defez of Italian National Research Council and Dennis Eriksson of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences write for EurActiv, calling for end to prejudice against GMOs in the EU, following EU Court of Justice ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato

Campaign: Greenpeace France urges supporters to sign petition calling on French government to commit to strict regulations of new breeding techniques, ahead of Sep 28 EU Commission conference on products of new breeding techniques

News: Le Monde reports EU ag sector worries about CETA, believes Canadians have advantage with lower cost products, notes treaty bans beef that uses hormones, GM feed, there is no effective way to

enforce the measure

News: Agence-France Presse reports CETA took effect despite NGO objections; Greenpeace maintains Canada has lower health, labeling standards than EU and relies on GM crops, pesticides; Juncker says treaty will prosper both parties

News: BBC reports United Kingdom, United States reach deal to make it easier for researchers to travel, collaborate, share facilities, with possible strategic areas of collaboration including GM research, could allow greater freedom in research because biotech and privacy regulation less restrictive outside EU

Campaign: European Coordination Via Campesina issues policy brief detailing goals for a draft declaration on rights of peasants, with goal of having it recognized by the UN, regarding seed rights, Via Campesina wants States to promote and support peasant seed banks, prohibit GMOs and limit use of industrial seeds

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian organic news outlet reports on Institute of Consumer Protection's (Idec) campaign against elimination of "T" symbol on food products containing GMOs, Idec nutritionist Mariana Garcia disputes claim that the symbol serves as a warning of danger, emphasizes importance of consumer choice

News: Brazil agricultural news site reports Senate Committee determines transgenic food should continue to use "T" symbol, should allow non-GMO labels when GM products completely absent

News: Mexican news site reports agricultural professor says GM grains rejected due to stigma rather than actual safety concerns, notes transgenics have been used for many years; says it's unlikely the crops absorb glyphosate through roots

News: Mexican news site reports Mexico uses non-GMO corn to produce tortillas, flour; says the country is self-sufficient in that area and does not use GM corn

News: Mexico News Daily reports on recent National Autonomous University of México (UNAM) study which found GM maize in just over 90 percent of tortillas, Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces argues that Mexico produces enough maize for human consumption, and that US imports should only be used for animal feed

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 statement from Greenpeace Netherlands criticizing the pending implementation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). In Germany, a group of activists issued an open letter warning about new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- Greenpeace Netherlands issued a statement criticizing the Sept. 21 implementation of a free trade agreement with Canada, warning that the deal would put European food safety standards at risk. The group highlighted Canada's approval of GE salmon and recent news that over five tons of the fish had been sold in the country. News reports in *EURACTIV* and *Russia Today* amplified the statement. **See more**
- German Working Group on Peasant Agriculture (AbL), Bioland, BÖLW, BUND, Demeter, GeN and IG seed released an open letter directed at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, calling for the agency to ensure that new plant breeding techniques are regulated under current guidelines for GMOs. The groups noted that a Netherlands delegation to the EU had recently re-opened the question of how to classify foods and crops developed using techniques such as CRISPR. **See more**
- News outlets in India reported that the country's environment minister told *The Hindu* that his agency was unlikely to make a swift decision on approving GM mustard for commercialization. In his statement, Minister Harsh Vardhan said there were strong arguments on "both sides" of the case. **See more**

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North America

News: Wired looks at development of Impossible Burger, plant-based product that smells, tastes and "bleeds" like ground beef, uses GE yeast; inventor says producing burger uses 1/20th of land, quarter of water needed to raise livestock for conventional meat patty

Event: New Hampshire news source previews speech by Caitlin Shetterly, author of "Modified: GMOs and the Threat to Our Food, Our Land, Our Future," on Sept. 26, in York, Maine; author claims GMO corn caused debilitating illnesses that she and her young son suffered

News: Capital Press reports speaker at Oregon Organic Coalition's annual awards luncheon says organic producers need to get more involved in debate, legislation affecting organic systems, asserts issues such as genetic engineering and pesticide drift drive wedge between organic and conventional producers

Commentary: Food Beast contributor examines Michigan State University's most recent Food Literacy and Engagement Poll, which found that 30 percent of Americans, mostly millennials, believe that non-GMO foods don't contain genes, worries about future of food literacy, believes documentaries like Food Evolution are helpful

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's reticence in funding University of Arizona researcher Monica Schmidt's research on using RNAi technology to eliminate aflatoxin in corn, due to concern about opposition to GMOs

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity members recount recent participation in workshop held in Morogoro, Tanzania, highlighting visit to Makutupora Viticulture Research and Training Institute to see GM maize developed by WEMA project, they promote investment in agroecology and traditional seeds over "inappropriate" GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports on Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's recent indication that decision on GM mustard is unlikely to come soon, noting compelling arguments from both sides, and that any government decision must be for the common good, highlights concerns about lack of human health studies

News: Times of India reports on Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's recent statement that the ministry is not in a hurry to make a decision on GM mustard, noting arguments both for and against its commercial release are "equally strong," and must be thoroughly evaluated

News: DNA India reports on pilot study on using biofortified crops developed by India Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to tackle malnutrition in four districts of Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, Women and Child Development ministry will evaluate crops' use in nutrition schemes based on results

More Asia items

Europe

News release: German Working Group on Peasant Agriculture (AbL), Bioland, BÖLW, BUND, Demeter, GeN and IG seed write letter to Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, calling for regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, and for application of precautionary principle

Commentary: Greenpeace Netherlands trade campaigner warns supporters about negative impact of CETA deal on EU food safety standards, noting it will enable North American corporations to weaken EU standards on GMOs, points out that recently approved GE salmon is currently on the Canadian market without labeling

News: EurActiv reports on opposition to CETA deal, of which 90 percent will go into force on September 21, highlights Greenpeace's claims that it will allow North American corporations to weaken EU standards on GMOs and growth hormones, as well as continued opposition from some member states

Commentary: EuropaBio's recent newsletter focuses heavily on debate surrounding new breeding techniques, features guest opinion by KeyGene CEO Arjen van Tunen, who emphasizes importance of legal certainty to support innovation with regards to NBTs, noting number of off-target effects is fewer than with conventional breeding

Commentary: Universiteit Utrecht news outlet contributor wonders why people remain skeptical about GMOs when they are a viable solution for addressing world hunger, highlighting research of plant pathologist Dr Ronnie de Jonge, and many benefits of biotech such as increased nutrition and resistance to diseases and pests

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian consumer rights group IDEC voices opposition to Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's approval of bill to change GMO labeling requirements, calling the

move "an affront to consumer rights," IDEC attorney Igor Britto alleges Senators hid the intention to vote from the public

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on controversy surrounding bill to weaken GMO labeling standards, Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (Idec) attorney Igor Britto objected to lack of transparency in recent Senate committee vote, noting it ignored widespread public opposition

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Bayer chief of commercial operations, Marc Reichardt's statement that merger with Monsanto will not result in relaxation of claim to royalties for GM seeds in Argentina, in light of recent controversy surrounding Intacta soybeans, he noted the company must consider whether to invest in countries without return

Commentary: Doctoral student in Development Sociology at Cornell University writes for Upside Down World, examining challenges of agrarian reform facing Ecuador's new president, Lenin Moreno, highlights importance of food sovereignty, and concerns that recently passed seed law will open the door to GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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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 Brazilian Senate moved forward on a proposal to update the country's GMO labeling guidelines. In the U.S., a coalition of farming groups launched a new awareness campaign to explain the benefits of agricultural technologies.

- The Brazilian Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agricultural Reform passed a bill that would replace the current GM labeling "T" icon with a text description and exempt products with less than 1 percent GMO ingredients from the labeling requirements. The proposal now moves to the Committee on Social Affairs and the Committee on the Environment. **See more**
- Farming organizations, including Western Sugar Cooperative and Amalgamated Sugar, launched a new website and campaign to educate consumers about the benefits of GMO farming. In a news release, the group emphasized that food marketing should emphasize science-based benefits rather than prey on consumer fears. **See more**

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North America

News release: A Fresh Look announces self-titiled campaign to promote health benefits of GMO farming methods, illustrating reduced use of chemicals and other resources, A Fresh Look Chair John McCreedy highlighted goal of providing consumers with accurate information

Campaign: A Fresh Look's website seeks to address confusion surrounding GMOs, highlights several environmentally friendly practices that GMOs enable farmers to engage in, points consumers to information on various issues surrounding GMOs

News: Food Dive amplifies Food Business News report that quotes Grocery Manufacturers Association official saying SmartLabel gradually gaining consumer acceptance, notes USDA's mandated study on GMO labeling law showed technical problems, inadequate grocery store infrastructure, lack of consumer awareness

News: Scientific American subscription feature article says scientists trying new ways to convince skeptical public to accept CRISPR technology, gene drives

Commentary: Delta Farm Press columnist discusses Nabisco's announcement that its Triscuit crackers are Non-GMO Project Verified, points out "fearmongers" have convinced many consumers that GMO crops are "evil plot" by agribusiness corporations, warns activists' PR has been better than ag's PR

News: Fox Business reports Tom Brady criticizes big food companies and GMOs in his new self-help book, referring to GMOs as a "chemistry experiment" that doesn't sound like something he'd want to eat

Commentary: Alternet contributor criticizes big companies such as Nestle for marketing high-calorie junk food, especially in developing nations, notes junk food replaces subsistence ag crops with sugar

cane and GMO corn and soybeans, the latter she claims drenches poor communities with toxic pesticides

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports Pod-Borer Resistant cowpea now in confined field trial has potential to resist pest that damages up to 80 percent of harvest, experts say new variety would help reduce amount of chemicals farmers use to protect cowpeas

News: The Guardian Nigeria reports on interception of shipments containing GM maize in Lagos, Director General of National Biosafety Management Agency, Dr. Rufus E. Ebegba, highlighted ongoing investigation of the incident, noting illegal importation of GMO produce attracts a five-year jail term or a fine of N5.5million

Commentary: Kondwani Hara of Malawi's Center for Social Concerns writes for local news outlet, urging caution in adopting GM cotton, pointing to allegedly poor outcomes in India and South Africa, claims it poses many economic and ecological risks

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Bangladeshi news outlet editorial calls for end to Bt eggplant cultivation, opposing government plans to supply farmers with free Bt eggplant seeds, claims farmers growing it incur losses due to poor harvest, warns about high rate of Indian farmer suicides, blaming Monsanto's Bt cotton

News: Third World Network's Biosafety Information Service amplifies scoping study done by African Centre for Biodiversity on Water Efficient Maize for Africa project in five African countries, warns WEMA project could be used to facilitate expansion of GM crops into Africa

Interview: Far Eastern Agriculture interviews FAO's Regional Programme Leader, Asia and Pacific, Xiangjun Yao, who describes ways in which biotech can contribute to food security and increased agricultural sustainability, emphasizes FAO's stance that new technologies should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Commentary: Italian sustainability consultancy publishes piece by Navdanya International director arguing policies of large seed and pesticide corporations are hurting the environment, harming human health; asserts regulatory agencies avoid risk testing for product as a whole or in combination with others to suggest they do not test effectively

News: Publication by American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei reports on growing organic trend as consumers seek healthier products free from artificial ingredients, highlights opposition to ban on GMOs in school lunches by food importers and manufacturers, citing scientific evidence of GMO safety

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news outlet reports deputies Serena Pellegrino and Antonio Placido will submit question to Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry regarding what policies and procedures exist to implement a ban on GMO cultivation in Italy, the query notes recent EU Court of Justice ruling is based on a law that has since been overcome

Event: Italy's Corriere della sera reports G7 agriculture ministers to meet Oct. 14 in Bergamo, meeting will focus on themes of sustainable agriculture, relationship between agricultural production and protection of landscape, activist Vandana Shiva among speakers

Commentary: Italian news outlet editorial reacts to recent EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs, criticizes farmers association Coldiretti for spreading myth that GMOs are harmful to human health, pointing to

scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes the Vatican has recognized GMOs as part of the solution to world hunger

News: EU Observer reports on concerns surrounding Bayer-Monsanto deal, Angela Wigger of Radboud University in the Netherlands sees no reason why the EU won't grant approval, noting the companies are "pushing at an open door," highlights opposition from SumOfUs and Friends of the Earth

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian ag news group reports on Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's approval of proposed changes to GMO labeling that would eliminate the "T" symbol, replacing it with text descriptions, if passed by Committee on Social Affairs (CAS) and the Committee on the Environment (CMA), it will move to Federal Senate

News: Brazil's Senate Agency reports on Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's (CRA) approval of bill to change GMO labeling requirements, replacing "T" symbol with text, Senator Cidinho Santos argued the symbol devalued Brazilian-produced food, the bill must now be approved by Commissions on Social Affairs and Environment

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Federal Senate's Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Commission's passage of bill revising GMO labeling requirements, replacing "T" symbol with text descriptions, Senator Cidinho Santos emphasized GMOs' history of safe use, noted the new disclosure will be more clear for consumers

News: Peruvian news outlet reports on release of GMO moratorium in Junín for 10 years, beginning on September 21, highlights Environment Ministry's previous remarks that the Junín region has great biodiversity in potatoes and maize, whose species have transgenic varieties in the market

News: Colombian news outlet reports on bill before Congress of the Republic to require labeling on foods and beverages with high caloric content and low nutritional value, the bill will also require clarification if any of the ingredients contain GMOs

News: Mexican news outlet Proceso reports on Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems study which found traces of transgenic maize in 90.4 percent of tortillas consumed in Mexico, highlights authors' concerns about glyphosate residues, and call on government to support agroecology and peasant ag to meet production needs

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Attorney for Australian law firm Russell Kennedy writes for Lexology, examining concerns about impact of three mega agribusiness mergers on research and development, points to research indicating that pooling of resources will result in research being more effective and targeted

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 18, 2017
Date: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:05:10 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 lawsuit from NGOs in Nigeria, as well as a new report on GM maize presence in Mexico.

- A coalition of advocacy groups in Nigeria, including Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and Women Environmental Programme, filed a lawsuit accusing the Nigerian government of violating the country's National Biosafety Management Act when it approved a Bt cotton variety for commercial use. The groups argue that officials did not conduct appropriate public listening sessions and issued the permits during a holiday. **See more**
- Researchers with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) released a new report finding that over 90 percent of the corn in processed tortillas contains genetically modified gene sequences. Lead researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces claimed that the findings were particularly alarming given the current moratorium on GM corn cultivation in the country. Researchers also warned of the potential presence of glyphosate residues. **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

Campaign: Council of Biotechnology Information official writes GMO Answers post for Medium promoting GMO Answers' annual "Get to Know GMOs Month," including online video contest asking entrants to submit creative ways of using biotech to help solve some of world's most pressing food challenge

News: Minnesota news source for lawyers reports jurors hearing testimony in lawsuit brought by state's corn growers against Syngenta to decide blame for $400 million in lost sales, whether company's commercialization of GM seed without Chinese approval, Mother Nature or market forces

Commentary: Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America announces recipients of MAA's Healthy Communities Award; highlights former sponsors, Vandana Shiva, Robert F. Kennedy, Pamm Larry and activist organic marketers

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Dr. Ian Clarke writes for Ugandan news outlet, following his recent visit to an agricultural show in North Dakota, he calls for passage of biotechnology and biosafety bill, highlighting successful adoption of GM crops in the US to boost yields and protect crops from fall armyworm

News: The Guardian Nigeria reports on lawsuit brought by Health of Mother Earth Foundation and other groups challenging National Biosafety Management Agency (NABMA) and other government agencies' approval of permit for Monsanto GM cotton variety, alleging non-compliance with National Biosafety Management Agency Act

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Institute for Agricultural Research's assessment that Nigeria could generate N48 billion from its Pod Borer Resistant GM Cowpea variety, researcher Mohammed Ishiyaku noted it will reduce need for insecticide inputs, protecting human health and the environment

News: Xinhua reports on Nigeria's recent National Biosafety Conference, where Minister of State for Environment Ibrahim Jibril noted the country will adopt any safe technology to boost food security, and Director-General of National Biosafety Management Agency, Rufus Ebegba assured the public of safety measures in place, in light of recent unapproved imports

More Africa items

Asia

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN report highlights Government of Japan's announcement of details for a GE salmon monitoring plan, as AquAdvantage GE salmon is not approved for commercial sale in Japan, monitoring scope will include salmon and its processed products

Commentary: Indian journalist and activist Bharat Dogra writes for Economic & Political Weekly against GM mustard, describes Parliamentary report criticizing influence of pro-GMO lobby on government as a "wake-up call" to the government for need to improve protections for health, environment and agriculture

Interview: India's Down to Earth magazine talks to official from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics who says media, policy-makers need to be more aware of advantages of biotech in crop improvement, scientists must educate public that biotech means more than GM crops

News: The Hindu reports on recent seed innovation conference involving academic institutions from India, UK and Germany, Prabhakar Rao, Trustee of Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust, claimed GM and hybrid seeds under irrigation are reaching a plateau, called for investment in rain-fed agriculture instead

News: Malaysian news outlet reports on Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar's announcement of new module on environment education for students, which will include instruction on application of traditional and modern biotech, and on how GMOs are safe for use in Malaysia

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM amplifies recent report presented to Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on impact of CETA on environment, climate and health, highlights concerns about impact on biotech regulations and the precautionary principle

News: Russia Today reports on Italian farmers' opposition to recent EU Court of Justice decision favoring GM crop farmer Giorgio Fidenato, Vice President of the Association of Agronomist and Forest Doctors, Mauro Uniformi, claims there has been no proper and in-depth research of consequences

Announcement: Italian news site announces upcoming September 28 live streaming program on farmer Giorgio Fidenato's recent victory over Italian government's GM crop cultivation ban, and on the "terrible story" of golden rice

News: Italian news outlet reports on Coldiretti's recent criticism of EU Court of Justice ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato, Coldiretti Emilia Romagna president Mauro Tonello claimed GMOs not only threaten the environment but also the Italian ag model, which he described as "the greenest of Europe"

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Argentinian news outlet interviews ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro, she warns about dangers of big ag mergers, genomic editing and pesticide use associated with GMOs

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent study by National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) researchers which found that 90.4 percent of tortillas consumed in Mexico contain traces of GM maize and glyphosate, lead researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces called for government support of peasant agriculture

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor amplifies study published in Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems which found that 82 percent of maize-derived foods and 90.4 percent of tortillas contain US GM maize, highlighting researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces' concerns about health risks of glyphosate

Event: Healdsburg SHED, a market, café and events space in Healdsburg, California will host reception for "Food Sovereignty, No to GMO Project" Curated by Mexican artist Francisco Toledo on October 4

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian food industry news site reports on CSIRO and Nuseed Pty Ltd's application to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) requesting permission to allow GM omega-3 fatty acid rich canola onto the market, FSANZ has determined the canola is safe, and will accept comments through October 26

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on recent discussion with Otago trained bioethicist Josephine Johnston, on sidelines of Royal Society forum on gene editing, she examines several ethical issues with the technology, believes New Zealand could play an important role in effective and ethical application of the technology

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 18, 2017
Date: Monday, September 18, 2017 4:32:24 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Are GMOs to blame for a spike in food allergies? Were the European Union's restrictions on neonics a good idea? Why can't African and Asian countries gain access to new farming technology? Why won't Netflix show the "Food Evolution" documentary? Are GMOs bad - or actually good - for bees? All of these questions and more are explored in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

There are also articles about new endocrine disruption claims, a fishy partnership between a Colorado county government and a pro-organic NGO, plus a podcast on how activists are using risk claims about glyphosate to create roadblocks to GM crops.

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

New claims of organic superiority over conventional agriculture appeared last week from a joint project by The Organic Center (TOC) and Northeastern University.

TOC claims to be an independent, non-profit research organization; however, it is housed,

Stories Worth Sharing

Andrew Porterfield: Biotechnology not to blame for rise in food allergies -- common allergens such as peanuts don't come in GM varieties

Henry Miller: Joint Research Centre assessment shows why European neonic restrictions were "regrettable"

Isaac Ongu: HarvestPlus, other NGOs blocking access to nutrient-rich GM crops in Africa and Asia

Hank Campbell: As key National Organic Program official steps down, will USDA put a check on organic marketing?

Michelle Miller: Don't be "stung" by the myth that GMOs harm bees

Colin Stevens: France's belief in "shoddy science" on glyphosate raises concerns about future EU policy debates

Ruramiso Mashumba: Benefits of GMO technology should be "obvious" to farmers in Zimbabwe

Geoffrey Kabat: Scottish professor advises to resist claims about endocrine disruption

Paul Danish: Colorado county's courting of pro-organic Rodale Institute to support GM crop ban raises questions

administered and funded by the Organic Trade Association - an industry trade group representing multibillion dollar organic marketing interests.

This raises questions about undisclosed organic marketing industry funding of university researchers similar to prior reports in *The New York Times* that exposed papers by former TOC research director Charles Benbrook at Washington State University were 100 percent industry-funded without disclosure.

Click HERE to learn more about The Organic Center.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jackson Fysh: Petition calls on Netflix to show "Food Evolution" documentary

Talking Biotech podcast: How activists are using glyphosate cancer claims to limit use of GM crops

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What's Trending?

French medical research institute study concludes mixtures of endocrine disruptors carry risk of "cocktail effect" on fetuses

Monsanto CEO will not attend European Parliament hearing examining company's influence over glyphosate research

In Italian case, EU court rules that nations cannot ban GM crops without scientific proof of risk

Organic Consumers Association, Rodale Institute promote new "regenerative organic" certification

Calendar highlights

September 18-19	September 21-22	September 21-24
Sustainable Foods Summit Latin America	Challenges to Providing Safe Drinking Water in the Midwest: A Symposium	17th European Skeptics Congress
September 21-22	**September 21**	**September 25 - October 1**
AfricaBio Conference	David Suzuki Foundation forum on systemic pesticides	European Biotech Week

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 15-17, 2017
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017 9:03:36 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a Health of Mother Earth Foundation official criticizing Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency after it discovered an unapproved GM maize import. The Kenyan government approved GM banana trials.

- HOMEF founder Nnimmo Bassey blamed the Nigerian government's attitude on GMOs after the NBMA caught an unauthorized GM maize shipment being imported. Bassey said the government's belief that GMOs are safe encouraged the importers, and he said it's an indication other shipments have made it to store shelves. NBMA Director Rufus Ebegba debunked the allegations. **See more**
- Kenya's National Biosafety Authority approved field trials for a Uganda-based project testing GM bananas designed to resist bacteria wilt. Some farmers in East Africa report up to 100 percent losses due to the disease. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science promotes Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) project, which recently received a funding boost from Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, highlighting recent success in field trials

Video: The Institute for Responsible Technology posts YouTube video with its founder, Jeffrey Smith, and a pediatrician, Michelle Perro, M.D., asserting people have improved their health by switching to organic and non-GMO diets

Audio: For its 100th episode, Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features interview of Folta himself, who describes his current lab research at University of Florida, and how activists have re-shaped his career as a science communicator

Commentary: Acton Institute senior editor Rev. Ben Johnson amplifies recent PLOS One study on economic and human life costs of delayed biotech adoption in African nations, calls on people of faith to "tear down economic, or ideological, barriers that prevent the spread of lifesaving agricultural techniques"

Commentary: Boulder Daily Camera responds to county's rebuttal, reiterates concern with County Commission recruiting Rodale Institute, which has well-known political agenda, to guarantee outcome of GMO study; notes Colorado State helped draft RFP and then bid on it as Rodale's partner; states county now will put beet, corn farmers out of business with no way to replace them

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey blames recent illegal shipment of 25,750 metric tons of GM maize on federal government's attitude towards GM foods, and voiced concern that this incident may just be a fraction of other undetected shipments of unauthorized foods

Commentary: Public policy advocate writes for Kenyan news site, says approval of GM maize trials contradicts national policy, claims GM crops in US led to cross-pollination, biodiversity loss, and chronic illnesses - including cancer

Commentary: Global Farmer Network posts op-ed by female farmer from Zimbabwe who says women embracing agriculture, new technology, including genetic modification; she calls GMO maize that resists stalk borer essential to future of nation's farming, asserts GMOs could improve yields, drought resistance

News: Switzerland-based international news site reports African farmers having trouble dealing with fall armyworm as many pesticides are ineffective against the pest; notes South African farmers can use Bt maize, but that is not an option in many countries where it is banned

News: Kenyan news site reports Kenya approves field trials for Uganda-based GM banana project to protect against bacterial wilt; Biosafety Authority also approves GM maize trials

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Writer for Indian news magazine extolls "sustainable cotton" movement emphasizing use of cotton seed native to India; blames Bt cotton for being resource-intensive, and leading farmers into debt trap and suicide

News: China Daily reports Chinese scientists seek to educate public on GMOs, notes anti-GMO documentaries mislead consumers in China

News: Filipino business news outlet reports on Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Biotechnology Information, Education and Communication Committee member/Diocesan priest Fr. Emmanuel Alparce's recent statement in support of golden rice following Makabayan bloc's resolution for an investigation, calling on House to trust the science

News: Hindustan Times reports Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan told Supreme Court that the ministry has not granted approval for GM mustard, as it is still studying the issue, highlights recent anti-GM rally, and opposition to GM mustard from Coalition for a GM-Free India, Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture and others

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports farm and environmental groups, scientists send letter asking Minister of Ecological Transition Nicolas Hulot to require food derived from gene editing and mutagenesis to adhere to GMO regulations

Commentary: Italian news site columnist criticizes EU court's decision in Fidenato case, says it is "key pillar" for defending Italy's health and environment, claims Monsanto influenced the decision

News: Italy's Il Foglio reports on European Court of Justice's ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato, finding that member states may not ban GMOs without evidence of health or environmental risk, or on basis of the precautionary principle, reports he will now be able to cultivate MON 810

Interview: Veneto politician responds to European Court of Justice decision on GM maize, says concern over cultivation is misplaced given country-wide opt out

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution against approval of products containing Dow's new herbicide tolerant soybean variety, arguing risk assessment data are insufficient, calls on Commission not to approve the soybean's entry onto the market, and to conduct thorough review of health risks associated with the herbicides in question

Commentary: Former Italian senator says in Huffington Post that the EU court decision on Fidenato case underscores Italy's need to base political decisions on science; notes court says precautionary principle cannot be used to ban GMOs without scientific basis

News release: Italian farmer's group urges constructive debate on GMOs in Italy; notes MON 810 variety is banned in Italy and other EU countries, so EU court decision does not impact the country, notes the fact the country imports GM feed opens up questions

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Rachel Wynberg of University of Rio, has ties to BioWatch and Earthlore Foundation, writes for The Conversation, emphasizing importance of traditional seeds for Brazilian Ag, claims GM hybrid seeds harm biodiversity and the environment, and drive small farmers into debt

News: Brazilian news source amplifies analysis presented during Latin American Congress of Agroecology that finds half of meats and derivatives analyzed contained transgenic ingredients not listed on labels, asserts more pesticides used to produce transgenic plants than conventional, insists risks to human health, environment ignored

News release: Brazilian Ag Ministry's Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) touts public-private partnership to facilitate transfer of state-of-the-art technologies for cotton agribusiness; objective of first stage to develop variety of GM cotton resistant to boll weevil

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Food Standards Australia New Zealand calls for submissions on application seeking to permit food from GM canola line that produces an omega-3 fatty acid in seed; applicant says new canola line could provide alternate source of DHA for food manufacturers in range of products

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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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 again centered on European activism, with continued activist and industry response to the European Court of Justice decision on Giorgio Fidenato's planting of GM maize. In the U.S., organic activists in partnership with Patagonia Inc. launched a new certification for "regenerative" sourced goods.

- European stakeholders continued to respond to the European Court of Justice's decision preventing member states from blocking GM crop cultivation through so-called emergency declarations. Italian politicians associated with Fratelli d'Italia and Movimento 5 Stelle criticized the decision while noting that the verdict has little practical application in light of Italy's "opt out" on GM crop cultivation. Greenpeace, Confagricoltura Fvg and the U.S.-based American Soybean Association also weighed in on the verdict. **See more**
- U.S. advocacy group Rodale Institute, in cooperation with groups such as the clothing maker Patagonia Inc. and the Organic Consumers Association, announced a new organic "plus" certification program to highlight agronomic practices intended to mitigate climate change impacts. The new certification, called "Regenerative Organic," will prohibit the use of GM crops, synthetic inputs and hydroponic systems in addition to other requirements. The groups invited stakeholder comments on the certification standards. **See more**
- In France, activists coordinating with the Faucheurs Volontaires issued an open letter calling on Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot to reject efforts to exclude gene editing and similar techniques from current GMO regulations. The groups criticized a position paper from the country's High Council on Biotechnology arguing for the exclusion. **See more**

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North America

Campaign: Rodale Institute announces Regenerative Organic Certification, cooperative effort aimed at setting new standard for regenerative organic agriculture, lists soil health among "three pillars" of campaign, which allows for no synthetic inputs, GMOs or gene editing

Commentary: Patagonia Inc. CEO Rose Marcario promotes apparel company's partnership with Rodale Institute to create Regenerative Organic Certification, says it aims to provide detailed guidance for producers to establish regenerative organic framework that builds soil health; solicits public comments on certification requirements

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins promotes Rodale Institute's draft standards for new Regenerative Organic Certification, argues USDA certified organic doesn't go far enough, says term "sustainable" co-opted by companies using GM crop-based dairy

News: Popular Science reports on threats to bananas by bacterial wilt and a new strain of Panama disease, highlights several efforts to save the Cavendish variety and others, including IITA biotechnologist Leena Tripathi's work to develop a GM variety resistant to bacterial wilt and nematodes

News: Politico Pro reports 30 organic and natural food companies write to USDA secretary to outline

their priorities in upcoming GMO labeling regulation, including call for requirement that all products containing ingredients derived from biotech be disclosed, demand consumer privacy be protected in any electronic labeling method

Commentary: American Soybean Association President Ron Moore applauds European Court of Justice ruling that member state governments can't ban cultivation of GE crops without scientific evidence of risk to human health, says group hopes reversal of "precautionary principle" will become EU's norm

Commentary: Colorado news source columnist criticizes Boulder County commissioners for using pro-organic Rodale Institute to support ban on GMO crops from county's open space, alleging collusion between commissioners and Colorado State University in bidding process rigged to benefit Rodale

More North America items

Africa

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent workshop held by National Biosafety Agency to increase public awareness about GMOs, where Director General Chantal Zoungrana noted the cotton industry is ready to return to Bt cotton

News: Nigerian newspaper reports doctors' group calls for absolute ban on tobacco advertising, sponsorship of sports, along with strengthening National Biosafety Management Agency to monitor all activities related to GMO technology in Nigeria to forestall "unintended adverse consequences"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on 30th annual International Conference of the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN) in Niger State, where Gov. Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello called on researchers to translate their work into products that will help Nigeria's sustainable development

News: Nigerian news outlet reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) raises alarm over unauthorized GM maize imports, Director General Rufus Ebegba noted NBMA has put necessary machineries in motion to track the importers, urging the public not to panic

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on government's draft GM food and feed labeling regulations to improve consumer choice, announced by Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Deputy Minister Godfrey Gandawa at recent commissioning event for a GMO testing lab and electronic permit issuing system

More Africa items

Asia

News: China Daily reports on Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Hydrobiology researchers' development of fast-growing GE Crown Carp, researcher Wang Yaping highlighted extensive safety measures in place to protect human health and the environment, but voiced concern that it may encounter similar roadblocks as GE salmon in the US and Canada

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news source reports Confagricoltura Friuli-Venezia Giulia responds to European Court of Justice decision, calling for public research on GMOs, setting of standards based on precise rules of co-existence, openness to independent research, citing tangible benefits of GMOs to farmers, consumers

Interview: Italian news outlet interviews GM maize farmer Giorgio Fidenato following EU Court of Justice ruling in his favor, he notes that while Italy may continue to ban GMOs under new EU law, the verdict authorizes him to ask for reparations from Italy, he also highlights importance of GM crops to sustainably boost food production

Commentary: U.K. anti-GMO group GMWatch cites new study from Brazil finding frequently occurring,

significant levels of resistance in fall armyworm to insecticidal protein used in GM Bt corn, claims study shows GM technology already redundant, even as GMO proponents tout GM Bt corn as solution to Africa's fall armyworm pest problem

News release: Greenpeace Italy issues statement in response to European Court of Justice ruling against Italy's ban of MON 810 GM maize cultivation, argues the ruling refers to a legal framework which has now passed, due to EU's 2015 directive, Greenpeace's Federica Ferrario praised Italy's adherence to the precautionary principle

News release: Brothers of Italy National Alliance releases official's statement regarding EU court decision in Fidenato case, says EU must not sell out its authority and credibility regarding food, says Italy must protect its national interests in agricultural excellence

News release: Italy's 5 Star Movement criticizes EU Court of Justice ruling that dismisses precautionary principle use without scientific evidence, says ruling tramples on member states' defense for environment and health against trade agreements; one MP worries ruling will open Italy for cisgenesis, gene editing

Campaign: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM posts letter to Minister for Ecological Transition, Nicolas Hulot, signed by several organizations, scientists and concerned citizens, asking him to take action to ensure that products of new breeding techniques are regulated as GMOs, highlighting health and environmental risks

Commentary: French farmer and ag worker union notes Netherlands proposal would allow gene-edited food to bypass assessment, labeling, claims they would have same health and environmental risks, blames GMOs for "multiplication of health scandals"

News: Dutch news outlet reports on State Secretary Sharon Dijksma's (Infrastructure and Environment) proposal to exclude forms of biotech that don't lead to detectable GM end products from GMO regulation, highlights upcoming conference on application of modern biotech in agriculture

More Europe items

Latin America

Report: The Wilson Center issues report, "Ecosystems of Innovation: The Case of Biotechnology in Argentina," that discusses biotech's dynamic growth in country, offers policy recommendations to continue its role as regional leader in field

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on how former Paraná governor Roberto Requião's 2003 decree prohibiting transport of GM exports via Port of Paranaguá forced Paraguay to reconfigure its export logistics, eventually to its economic benefit using inland waterways

News: Ecuadoran news site reports National Institute of Agricultural Research announces workshop on research protocol for GMOs; ag minister points out GMOs have expanded throughout the world, making the workshop useful to those

Interview: Argentinian news outlet interviews University of Buenos Aires Food Sovereignty Chair Miryam Gorban, who speaks out against negative health effects of the modern food system, pointing to dangers of GM soy and associated pesticides, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and animal hormones and antibiotics

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Autonomous University of Aguascalientes' (UAA) 12th Congress of Natural Sciences, where biotech researcher Jose Ruben Morones Ramirez highlighted importance of biotech for development of smart drugs, and UNAM biotech professor Agustin Lopez Munguia's called for its application to boost food production

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: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 9 01:43 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 European Court of Justice decision preventing countries such as Italy from using emergency powers to ban GM crops approved by the EU.

- The European Court of Justice weighed in on Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato's appeal after the Italian government prosecuted him for planting a GM maize variety despite the country's 2013 cultivation ban. A statement from the court criticized the use of the so-called emergency powers in situations where scientific evidence had not pointed to potential harm. Several Italian NGOs weighed in on the decision. **See more**
- In a feature-length article, *Xinhua* reported on Kenyan scientists' efforts to commercialize genetically modified maize varieties. The newspaper noted Kenya's battles with fall armyworm and other pests. **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: St. Louis NPR affiliate reports on Bayer CropScience's head of research and development, Adrian Percy's recent speech at Ag Innovation Showcase; notes priorities after Monsanto merger include addressing pollinator decline and meeting high demand for herbicides to control resistant weeds

News: Colorado newspaper's series on "Women in Agriculture" profiles local women involved in ag activism, including farmer who advocates for sugar beet growers, talks to people about advantages of GMOs; Western Sugar Cooperative says sugar beet growers have documented 25 environmental benefits of GE beets

News: Food & Environment Reporting Network profiles Italian seed scholar who brought durum wheat seeds back from Syrian seed bank in 2010, which could pose challenge to plant-patenting system in Europe or United States; European scientists comparing performance, resilience of diverse versus single-seed populations

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield rebuts claims GMOs responsible for spike in food allergies in United States, points out GM versions don't exist for foods that cause food allergies most frequently, such as peanuts, milk and eggs; research shows no single biotech-based protein in food found to cause allergic reaction

News: Toronto news source reports play "Seeds" debuting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, tells real-life story of Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser's legal fight against Monsanto after he was accused of planting company's GM canola seeds on his farm; dialogue taken verbatim from interviews with people involved, court transcripts

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports on Kenyan scientists' recent application to National Biosafety Authority for permission to release the first GM maize variety, African Agricultural Technology Foundation's Gospel Omanya noted most Kenyan farmers are ready for the pest and disease resistant GM maize variety

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Indian seed company develops alternative genetic trait to resist pink bollworm, which previously developed resistance to Bt cotton in both single-gene and two-gene traits; researchers say they developed new trait by combining two existing genes

Interview: GRACE Communications Foundation interviews Indian farmer and La Via Campesina activist Kannaiyan Subramanian, he highlights struggles of sustainable farming in India, speaks out against agribusiness mega-mergers, claims expensive inputs such as Bt seeds and agrochemicals push farmers into debt, leading to high suicide rates

News release: U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative blogs about USAID efforts to boost incomes for Bangladesh's farmers, including support for government's release of four varieties of GE eggplant now being grown by 8,000 farmers; government plans to release five more varieties of GE eggplant in coming years

News: Vietnam News Agency reports Ministry of Finance proposes cuts in some fees and charges, including for issuance of biosafety certificates for use of GM products as food and animal feed

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Court of Justice of the European Union rules Member States may not adopt emergency measures on GM food and feed without evidence of serious risk to health or the environment, notes the precautionary principle may not be used to modify provisions on GMOs, as they have already undergone scientific assessments

News: Italian media report on EU Court of Justice ruling in case against farmer Giorgio Fidenato, finding that EU member states cannot take emergency measures on GMOs without existence of serious health or environmental risks

Commentary: Italian news outlet contributor examines current GMO regulations in the EU and in Italy, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety and highlights several benefits of biotech, calls for "critical, analytical and non-prejudicial attitude not only to GMOs but to all modern technological innovations"

News release: Associazione Luca Coscioni praises EU Court of Justice ruling against Italy's GMO ban, member Giorgio Fidenato will speak at the association's upcoming 14th Congress beginning on September 30

News release: Italian autonomous region's website reports comment of regional think tank in response to EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs; NGO says judicial battles "anachronistic" because scenario has changed, GM maize cultivation prohibited in Italy

News release: Italian farmers association Coldiretti announces results of investigation which found that eight out of ten Italians are opposed to GMOs, following EU Court of Justice ruling in case against an Italian farmer, Coldiretti's Roberto Moncalvo noted GMOs not only threaten the environment but also the Made in Italy model

Report: USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service releases annual GAIN Report about ag biotechnology in Germany, which finds widespread public rejection of GE plants, no commercial GE crop production and almost no GMO foods on market; German seed companies Bayer, BASF, KWS have moved R&D operations to United States

Commentary: German news outlet contributor examines debate surrounding ethics of new gene editing techniques, highlighting researchers' call for broad debate, believes there is no place for biopolitics in the election campaign, points to "anti-scientific strangulation of the left and the gene-free populism from the right" regarding GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Study: Study in World Development questions long-term sustainability of GM soybean production in Argentina, finding significant negative environmental impacts, as well as reduced direct labor absorption in agriculture

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies study in World Development which questions sustainability of GM soy cultivation in Argentina, highlights findings that GM soybeans have significant harmful impact on the environment, and that production leads to loss of farm labor jobs, potentially worsening poverty

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Agroecology and the Media Research study which found that media gives 95 percent of its space to agribusiness and five percent to sustainable techniques such as agroecology, presenting them as "alternatives" or "exotic"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on chocolate expert Luke Owen Smith's opinion that new ruby chocolate is not really chocolate, and that it probably won't taste very good, he claims it is probably made from a GM strain of cacao that is poor quality and used in mass-produced, cheap industrial chocolate

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 12, 2017
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:06:32 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments highlighted upcoming events in Europe, where several decisions on biotechnology issues are pending this week.

- European news outlets previewed a Thursday (Sept. 14) Appeal Committee review on soybean traits for import and processing. German anti-biotechnology group Testbiotech warned that safety assessments for the Dow and Bayer events were "fake" and didn't reflect real-world conditions. **See more**
- Italian news sites previewed a European Court of Justice verdict expected Wednesday (Sept. 13) in criminal proceedings against farmer Giorgio Fidenato, who had sown a GM maize variety despite a government ban on the crop. Fidenato had defended the cultivation, arguing that the government had declared the ban despite no evidence of risk. **See more**
- Indonesian news outlets reported on the government's announced plan to streamline GM trait approvals, noting official statements linking the new policy to its food security goals. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor promotes petition calling on Netflix to carry Food Evolution documentary, noting it has carried other, one-sided food documentaries such as "GMO OMG," "What the Health" and "Food Inc.," adds that Hulu has picked up exclusive rights

Commentary: AGDAILY runs "Farm Babe" column explaining U.S. honeybee population is at a 20-year high, adds that activist claims blaming GMOs in bee deaths "couldn't be further from the truth"

News: Food Dive amplifies Food Navigator report about NMPF's "Peel Back the Label" campaign aimed at fighting "deceptive food labeling" from Dean Foods, Dannon, other dairy brands that tout Non-GMO Project certification; article's "Insight" portion predicts debate over GMO safety to continue, intensify

Commentary: Dallas lifestyle site runs column by dietitian defining organic food as having no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, and no genetic engineering, admitting organic food is not necessarily healthier, but acknowledging that debate continues

Commentary: GMO Answers' Commodity Crop Series posts profile on cotton, reports cotton production has doubled since 1950 due largely to improved varieties resistant to insects, herbicides

More North America items

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on tour by Women's Parliamentary Caucus and National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) to bring biotech initiative to rural farmers, farmers told them they

are ready to embrace biotech to boost crop production

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ongu examines ways in which anti-GMO activists are blocking accessibility to biofortified crops such as golden rice and GM super bananas, promoting efforts to address hidden hunger by HarvestPlus and others

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Epidemiological Society of Nigeria's recent assessment that tobacco use, alcohol consumption, poor diet and sedentary lifestyle contribute to worsening rate of non-communicable diseases, the society also noted GMOs have potential to meet food security challenges, but must be well-regulated

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on University of Lampung ag expert Bustanul Arifin's call on government to adopt biotech crops, noting it will help decrease rate of land conversion, Indonesian Biotechnology Information Center Director Bambang Purwantara noted lack of policies for regulation and implementation hinders biotech development

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on recent speech by PG Economics Director Graham Brookes in Jakarta, where he highlighted several environmental and economic benefits of GM crops, agricultural observer Bustanul Arifin believes government caution in adopting biotech is due to previous failure with hybrid rice technology

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on government's preparation of GMO development road map, Assistant Deputy of Infrastructure and Food Faculty of Agricultural Economy, Ignatia Maria Honggowati highlighted goal of tailoring GM seed development to domestic needs

News: Indian news outlet reports on organic activist and Kheti Virasat Mission founder/director Umendra Dutt's upcoming visit to Jalandhar to give his views on the environment, highlights his work to promote organic ag and warn people about negative effects of GMOs

News: Iranian news outlet reports on pros and cons of GMOs, highlighting debate over health and environmental risks, Ahmadreza Mehrabian of Shahid Beheshti University argues the technology should not be rejected outright, pointing to many benefits

Announcement: French NGO GoodPlanet Foundation announces release of Volume 3 of "The Lords of the Earth" comic book, "Seeds of Hope," set in India and detailing negative impact of GMOs and pesticides, with a preface by Vandana Shiva, and adapted in French by Gilles-Eric Seralini

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech claims risk assessments by Bayer and Dow on application submitted for soybeans genetically engineered to be resistant to three different classes of herbicides are fake, arguing that real risks have not been assessed at all

News release: EU Green Party criticizes contradiction and hypocrisy in EU's GMO policy, voicing opposition to proposed approval of Dow's new GM soybean variety for import, highlights health and environmental risks of glufosinate-ammonium and 2,4-D, to which the soybean is resistant, hopes Commission will block its approval

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service issues GAIN Report warning change in voting behavior among EU Member States may lead to GE crops not being approved, noting pro-GE majority among states could be threatened by Brexit, possible results of German federal elections in September 2017

News: Italian news outlet reports EU Court of Justice opinion in Giorgio Fidenato case is expected Wednesday, Sept. 13, regarding charges against him for planting GM maize, highlights Advocate General

Bobek's argument that member states can only ban GMOs if they can demonstrate serious risk to humans and the environment

News: Italian news outlet reports on Dutch proposal to exclude products of new breeding techniques from GMO regulations for safety, labeling and traceability, highlights Italian Ag Ministry's allocation of 21 million for research on new breeding techniques

News: EU Observer reports on upcoming events, highlighting expected European Court of Justice ruling on new GMO techniques

Commentary: MP for Maine-et-Loire, France, Matthieu Orphelin, amplifies recent independent report on CETA trade agreement, pointing to "serious problems" for food, agriculture and the environment, warns that products of new breeding techniques could be assimilated in France, as Canada has decided not to regulate them as GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean issues declaration following its second Assembly recently held in Guatemala, promotes agroecology and protecting traditional seed biodiversity, speaks out against modern ag practices such as agrochemical use

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Rural Association's (ARU) recent statement of concern regarding lack of competitiveness in the ag sector, pointing to biosafety cabinet's failure to approve GM events in spite of scientific evaluation, accusing it of violating producer rights regarding "availability of up-to-date and high-impact technology"

Commentary: Oaxacan news outlet contributor voices concern about high level of transgenic maize in Mexico, claiming glyphosate and Bt toxin pose risks to human health

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 12, 2017
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:47:53 AM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

The Non-GMO Project, as Julie Gunlock put it in her recent piece in *The Federalist*, is "capitalizing on manufactured ignorance. The topic is also explored in two other pieces in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter - from Kavin Senapathy in Forbes and "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller in AGDAILY. These three women argue that a combination of ignorance and lies confuses customers into spending more for food that isn't any safer.

There's also a call from Ruth Kava of the American Council on Science and Health - echoed by Michael J. Ssali in a Daily Monitor op-ed - for biotechnology to be allowed to address nutritional issues in Uganda, along with other pieces on unrealistic demands and conspiracy theories from environmentalists.

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: MASIPAG

MASIPAG, a Philippine NGO promoting agroecology and organic farming, recently held its annual conference highlighting its opposition to GMOs (including Golden Rice) and modern crop protection products.

Stories Worth Sharing

Julie Gunlock: Consumers paying high price for "meaningless and unnecessary food labels" while Non-GMO Project profits

Kavin Senapathy: Nabisco should stop "pandering to ignorance and fear" with Non-GMO Project label on Triscuits

Michelle Miller: While organic food companies spend millions of dollars annually "lying to you," Non-GMO Project sells an agenda

Geoffrey Kabat: "Solid evidence is lacking" to support claim that endocrine disruptors are to blame for sperm count decline

Ruth Kava: Genetically engineered bananas could help "wipe out" Vitamin A deficiency in Uganda

Ted Nordhaus: Anti-GMO activists offer solutions that are "demonstrably not up to the task" of solving environmental issues

Alison Van Eenennaam: "GMOs Revealed" series dismisses opinions of "entire worlds' scientific societies," sides with conspiracy theories

Andrew Porterfield: Activists equating organic to "pesticide-free" causes false perceptions among consumers

Joseph Perrone: We should recognize glyphosate's safety until evidence emerges to the contrary

In 2013, the group worked with Greenpeace and others to organize the criminal destruction of Golden Rice field trials, and it has promoted misleading health risk claims linked to GMOs, pesticides and other conventional agriculture practices.

Click HERE to learn more about MASIPAG, which is largely funded by European and U.S. organic-promoting interest groups.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

FAO set to host Asia-Pacific regional meeting on using agricultural biotechnology to feed the hungry

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What's Trending?

European Food Safety Authority assessment finds glyphosate is not an endocrine disruptor

University of California-Davis study claims folic acid intake could reduce autism risk associated with pesticides

Minnesota court set to hear farmers' class-action lawsuit over Viptera corn seed

New Zealand farmers object to water quality proposals from Green, Labour parties

Monsanto seeks to block Arkansas dicamba ban it calls "unwarranted and misinformed"

Calendar highlights

September 11-13	September 12-14	September 12-14
FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Asia-Pacific	6th Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting	Royal Entomological Society's Ento '17
September 14-17	**September 14**	**September 16-24**
International Water Festival	European Commission's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting on GM food and feed	Week of Peasant Seeds

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 11, 2017
Date: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:06:01 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 news out of Europe that Dutch officials had proposed exempting certain crops developed through new techniques from EU GMO regulations. In Asia, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) opened a regional conference on biotechnology in agriculture.

- European media outlets reported that officials from The Netherlands proposed amending the European Union's rule on GMOs to exclude products developed from new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The comments were made during an informal meeting held earlier this month. La Via Campesina's European chapter issued a news release criticizing the proposal, arguing that it would allow the biotechnology industry to "seize the existing agrodiversity." **See more**
- The UN Food and Agricultural Organization issued a statement on its regional meeting this week in Kuala Lumpur to review biotechnology in agriculture. FAO urged developing countries to move away from the debate on genetically modified crops and instead consider the benefits of other DNA-based technologies. The report highlighted techniques such as biopesticides and artificial insemination in livestock. **See more**
- Paraguay's ConBIO announced it was reviewing plans to streamline the country's regulation of new genetically modified products. ConBIO coordinator Cristina Soerensen noted that there were overlapping steps that contributed to commercialization delays. **See more**
- On Wednesday (Sept. 13), European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is expected to highlight the new European Industrial Strategy during his State of the European Union speech. In anticipation of the event, EuropaBIO issued a statement urging reforms to European policies to ensure innovation among the medical and agricultural industries. Among other issues, the group called for the European Union to ensure swift GM crop assessments and to remove the "opt out" ability for member states. **See more**

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North America

News: Food Navigator reports on USDA study identifying significant but not insurmountable challenges in digital GMO disclosure, while Center for Food Safety reiterated its demands for on-package labels, Grocery Manufacturers Association argued that education campaigns will make digital disclosure successful

News: AP reports test lawsuit goes to trial Sept. 11 in Minneapolis against Syngenta for introducing GE Viptera corn variety before China approved it for imports; plaintiffs say Syngenta's move damaged important export market for U.S. corn; test case meant to provide guidance for resolving complex litigation

Event: Morning Ag Clips reports Vandana Shiva to attend regional seed swap Oct. 17 during three-day visit and lecture tour at University of North Carolina-Asheville; report notes Shiva campaigns for sovereign seed and secure food systems

Interview: Global Plant Council interviews Dr. Staffan Eklof of Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA), he describes SBA's role in regulating GM plants, explains that plants are only regulated as GMOs if foreign DNA is present, highlighting SBA's decision not to regulate products of CRISPR as GMOs

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Swiss GMO-Free Alliance amplifies claims that Monsanto heavily influenced Malawi's recently passed seed regulation, voicing concern about negative impact on farmers' rights and corporate influence over government regulations

More Africa items

Asia

News release: UN's FAO emphasizes need to improve access to biotech for smallholder farmers in developing countries to help boost food and nutrition security and to fight poverty, highlights Assistant Director General Kundhavi Kadiresan's statement at recent regional meeting

Commentary: GMWatch describes recent removal of Maharashtra's state ag commissioner, Sunil Kendrekar, from his post as " a sad indictment of those in power in India," highlighting Kendrekar's criticism of Monsanto's Bt cotton due to resistance of the pink bollworm

News: Indian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry's "ease of business" policy to expedite decision-making, highlights large decision ahead regarding approval for commercialization of GM mustard, and opposition from farmers who question its necessity

Commentary: Coalition for a GM-Free India responds to recent report by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in favor of GM mustard, makes negative claims in response to NAAS arguments regarding yield, environmental pollution and biosafety, lists several unanswered questions

News: Filipino news outlet reports on sugar industry stakeholders' passage of 21 resolutions at recent meeting in Negros Occidental to ensure industry survival, including lobby for enforcement of anti-GMO Ordinance to fight high fructose corn syrup

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs' preparation of road map for accelerated biotech product development, with goal of implementation in 2018, scope will include economic benefits, development of GM seeds, and environmental analysis of GM seed products

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) calls on all EU governments to reject the Netherlands' proposal to exempt products of new breeding techniques from GMO regulations, claiming sanitary and environmental hazards remain the same

News: EurActiv reports on the Netherlands' argument that new plant breeding techniques should not be regulated like GMOs, calling for early discussion of the issue prior to EU court ruling, highlights European Coordination Via Campesina's statement opposing the Dutch proposal

News: Politico Pro EU reports on EuropaBio's analysis of EU Commission's biotech goals, prior to President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union Speech, calling for prioritization of "ambitious" innovation policies, simplification of regulations and investment in innovation

News release: EuropaBio announces evaluation of EU's progress in creating an innovation friendly environment, prior to President Juncker's State of the Union Speech, calls for "holistic and balanced approach for biotech innovation," and effective implementation of the existing GMO authorization system

Commentary: Blogger for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes composition of upcoming Estates General of Food workshops, noting that no environmental or pro-organic organizations are included

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Paraguayan news outlet reports on National Commission of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity's (Conbio) efforts to eliminate steps in the biotech approval process which overlap and lead to delays, and recent biosafety workshop organized by Chamber of Fertilizers and Phytosanitary (Cafyf)

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mayan beekeepers' opposition to GM soy cultivation, reports decline in bee populations is due to deforestation to make way for GM crops, highlights ongoing legal battle to keep GM soy out of the Yucatan Peninsula, and controversy surrounding consultation process

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor amplifies recent report demonstrating sharp rise in congenital malformations over the last two decades in Parana, and linking the increase to use of pesticides on GM crops, argues that agroecology is a viable alternative for producing enough food

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Irish Farmers Journal reports on Australia's challenge of separating GM from non-GM crops, as some provinces ban GM crop cultivation as well as transport, increasing costs, Europe's non-GMO stance is critical for Australia's non-GM canola market

Commentary: Columnist for Australian food industry news source reflects on 2017 Australian Organic Market Report showing personal health concerns driving growing demand for organic food in nation; writer says she understands consumers' preference for food free of pesticide residues and GMOs but argues all food contains chemicals

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 8-10, 2017
Date: Sunday, September 10, 2017 9:05:00 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 reports on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's survey on QR codes and news that Monsanto plans to sell its Bt cotton seed business in India.

- News sites reported the USDA released its report on QR codes. Findings included that although most shoppers have smart phones, the digital codes would present problems for consumers, including technological and accessibility issues. **See more**
- *Reuters* and other media sites reported Monsanto plans to sell its small, branded cotton seed business in India to local firm Tierra Agrotech Private Ltd., although Mahyco Monsanto Biotech will continue selling GM seed. Indian newspaper *The Hindu* reported that experts say the sale is part of the company's merger with Bayer. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts Andrew Porterfield piece debunking myth of organic farming as pesticide free, compares claims of glyphosate, 2,4-D toxicity to negative health, environmental effects of organic fungicide copper sulfate

News: AdWeek amplifies Organic Valley campaign to promote company image as quirky, transparent and 'walking the walk' while upping criticisms of 'corporate' agriculture greenwashing and use of GMOs, antibiotics, hormones and pesticides

News: UC-Davis professor Alison Van Eenennaam criticizes "GMOs Revealed" fearmongering, says series dismisses scientific societies' published opinions with conspiracy theories, gut feelings and anecdotes; explains fallacies on glyphosate promoted by the anti-biotech series

News: Travel and food news source profiles Mexican man who advocates for preserving native heirloom varieties of corn from extinction, applauds recent Mexican court decision that bans Monsanto from planting GMO corn in country, warns GMO corn enters country's food system anyway through U.S. imports
Commentary: ACSH's Ruth Kava argues introduction of GE "Super Banana" could help address problem of vitamin A deficiency in Uganda, predicts scare-mongers will target GE banana as they have GM Golden Rice, insists genetic engineering of food crops has potential to save lives in developing countries

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Michael J. Ssali says in Daily Monitor op-ed that Ugandan farmers pay the price for legislature's delay in passing biosafety bill, notes crops suffering from drought, pests

News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana responds to National Seed Trade Association of Ghana President Thomas Havor's recent statement of support for GMOs, claims they are unsafe for humans and fail to

boost yields or reduce pesticide use, promotes agroecology

News: Ghanaian news site reports seed association backs government plans to commercialize GM crops, says it will benefit farmers and consumers; civil society groups claim GMOs will have negative socio-economic and health impacts

News: Cote D'ivoire news site reports AGRF conference focuses on armyworm plaguing farmers in 28 African nations, emphasize urgent response using pesticides, GMOs to fight the pest

More Africa items

Asia

News: Tehran Times reports Iranian Environment Department will develop regulations, investigate "negative impacts of GMOs" on environment, health

News: The Wire contributor says there is no consensus on India government's farm policy, including GM mustard; notes Maneka Ghandi claims neonics kill bees

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on success of recent GM maize field trials, Son La Plant Protection and Cultivation Department Director Duong Gia Dinh called for expanding and encouraging GM maize production

News: The Times of India reports agricultural scientists report GM oilseeds crucial to grow Indian farms, farmer income; point out Indians consume imported GM oil with no ill effects

Commentary: Filipino NGO reports resolution filed in House of Representatives in effort to stop re-introduction of GM Golden Rice in country, recaps 2013 incident in which GM rice field trial destroyed by opponents, notes it opposed new field trials and renewed push for Golden Rice to be used for food, feed and processing

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Charlotte Krinke notes U.S. government deems local authorities incompetent to pass laws banning GM seeds, so it prohibits local bans with its own seed law; but says agribusinesses have too much input into the federal laws

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes European Food Safety Authority's assessment of allergenicity in GMOs, pointing out flaws in the pepsin test, criticizes Monsanto's involvement in developing the testing protocol

News: Czech Republic news source reports opinion poll finds only 19 percent of Czechs interested in GM foods, compared to 29 percent interested in organic food; poll shows 77 percent of Czechs believe GM foods should be labeled, although 56 percent admit they never check that label information

News release: Textile manufacturer requests GOTS to investigate allegations of GM contamination in organic cotton in India; EU calls it fraud, saying it is incompatible with consumer views of organic cotton

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports national ag department partners with cotton farmers to develop Bt cotton resistant to cotton boll weevil; officials expect it will take 10 years to have resistant cotton available to producers

News: Mexican news site reports Metropolitan Autonomous University professor says no evidence supports claim that GMOs damage health; notes plants undergo horizontal gene transfer in nature

News: Mexican news site reports artist Francisco Toledo chastised Mexican President Enrique Pena

Nieto for ignoring letter that asked him to oppose GM maize; says GMOs and pesticides cause illness, GM maize contaminates native corn

News: Uruguayan news site reports Montevideo government prepares to pass law requiring GM foods to be labeled locally

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site contributor says CRISPr offers many potential benefits in agriculture, industry, and medical fields

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017 9 04:29 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 development included a U.S. government study on the use of digital disclosures for GMO ingredients. In Australia, stakeholders issued final calls for comments on the National Gene Technology Scheme.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released results from a Deloitte study that examined the use of digital disclosures, such as QR codes, for GMO ingredients. Activist group Center for Food Safety claimed victory for the study's release and noted that the report highlighted concerns about customers' ability to access the information. Just Label It!, a Green America campaign, called for USDA to reject the use of digital disclosures. **See more**
- Western Australia's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development reminded consumers that the comment period on the National Gene Technology Scheme will close on Sept. 15. In its newsletter, anti-biotechnology group MADGE urged its supporters to submit comments, and it posted its own submission on its website. **See more**.
- In the Philippines, a coalition of lawmakers called on the federal government to review the potential effects of Golden Rice commercialization on farmers. The Makabayan Bloc pointed to farmer and scientist concerns about GM crop safety for consumer health and the environment. **See more**.

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North America

News release: Center for Food Safety claims victory after USDA publishes study on feasibility of electronic disclosure for labeling of GE foods, 12 days after NGO sued agency for withholding it; CFS legal director says study confirms that digital disclosure discriminatory, burdensome compared to on-package labels

News release: Just Label It announces over 70,000 Americans signed its call-to-action demanding stringent GMO labeling standards, rejecting digital disclosure and proposal to exclude sugars, oils, and new forms of GE; demanding ingredient-by-ingredient labeling and timely implementation of the law

News: Agri-Pulse reports a USDA-contracted study found that consumers face numerous challenges using devices to access information about GMO foods, despite widespread availability of smartphones, noting necessity of an extensive educational campaign and recommending user-friendly scanner apps

News: Maui news site reports 66 people sign up for public testimony at Maui committee meeting to protest A&B plan involving GM crop trials

Commentary: Ted Nordhaus of Breakthrough Institute writes for USA Today, criticizing environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth's opposition to Impossible Burger, noting there is no evidence that it isn't safe, highlights several ways in which anti-GMO activism hinders sustainable development

Commentary: Independent Women's Forum's Julie Gunlock writes in The Federalist, notes former GMO execs lead Non-GMO Project, which claims GMOs and Roundup cause health issues; says they haven't had change of heart, but are seizing on market opportunity

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines challenges in bridging gap between pro- and anti-GMO movements, highlighting recent backlash against Food Evolution documentary from activist groups, which he notes cannot cite scientific evidence to back up their claims

Campaign: NGO coalition letter calls on Ben & Jerry's CEO to commit to 3-year organic transition, arguing ice cream maker's industrial system contaminates water, ice cream with pesticides, promotes global warming with GMO monocultures

More North America items

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) finance and administration director Pongolani Msakambewa's recent call for Malawi to embrace biotech to achieve food security, speaking at recent Parliamentary Women's Caucus sensitization meeting on biotech and biosafety

News: Malawi news site reports Parliamentary Women's Caucus supports GM crop field trials in effort to increase food production, avoid food crisis; worries persist that GM crops cause cancer

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippines' Business Mirror reports bloc of federal lawmakers want inquiry into impact of development of Golden Rice on human health, environment, local farmers, claiming scientists worldwide have serious concerns about safety of GE food and say vitamin A benefits "baseless"

News: Filipino news source reports golden rice could solve nation's problem with vitamin A deficiency, notes other GMO crops on market, points out food derived from those crops has undergone extensive testing, lists guidelines imposed on crops and quotes pro-biotech groups and WHO defending their safety

Commentary: FAO's Kundhavi Kadiresan writes for Indian environment news site, prior to FAO's high-level regional meetings on using biotech to achieve sustainable food systems and better nutrition, highlights successful biotech applications in India and Thailand for boosting food production

Commentary: Indian farmer writing for Global Farming Network says golden rice must be approved to prevent blindness caused by vitamin-A deficiency in India, other developing countries, notes Philippines on verge of approving commercialization of golden rice, asserts nothing to fear from GMO rice

News: Cambodian news site reports Cambodian government denies reports of GM crops being cultivated in the country, says it would impact export market

More Asia items

Europe

Report: Finnish Green Party-affiliated science and technology group's GMO discussion paper cites potential of GMO technology to help world food production, claims current usage benefits commercial interests at risk of sustainable development, notes lack of health risks linked to GMO products, lists recommendations to ensure responsible use

Study: Study in PLOS ONE compares acceptability of transgenesis and cisgenesis in Europe, when such techniques enable reduction in pesticide treatments, finds wider acceptability of vertical gene transfer as a means of reducing phytosanitary treatments, compared to horizontal transfer

News: Turkish news outlet reports on Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) researchers' development of GM rice variety rich in iron, zinc and beta carotene, lead researcher Navreet Bhullar noted the rice will be tested in a natural environment next year

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian newspaper runs op-ed by nutrologist arguing transgenic foods damage human health, environment, pointing out Brazil second-largest producer of transgenics worldwide, citing risk of their use impoverishing healthy food production

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor criticizes inconsistent regulations of transgenics, noting bans on the technology are based on technical ignorance, calls for a scientific approach rather than a political and ideological one

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: MADGE publishes comments on Australia's review of the National Gene Technology Scheme; among other claims, says GM crop manufacturers distort scientific conversation through funding and "trolling"

News release: Government of Western Australia reminds public they have until Sept. 15 to make submissions to review of National Gene Technology Scheme, notes there will be further opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to review

News: New Zealand news site reports organic certifier BioGro NZ launches non-GMO certification program, notes company executive cites "associated risks" with genetic modification to stress need for non-GMO options

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017 9:35:47 AM

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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 and stakeholder response to a U.S. campaign criticizing "fear" focused food marketing. In India, scientists criticized advocacy groups' misleading statements on efforts to cultivate GM mustard.

- U.S. media outlets continued to respond to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) campaign "Peel Back the Label," which targets free-from claims on food products. The group had singled out non-GMO claims in particular. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* amplified the NMPF criticism of dairy company Dannon over its non-GMO claims, and an *Agweek* columnist noted parallels with health claims such as "no added fats." **See more**
- India's National Academy of Agriculture Sciences issued a report today countering NGO misstatements about a GM mustard currently under regulatory review. The report noted that advocacy claims about foreign involvement and herbicide tolerance "willfully" distorted the facts. **See more**
- Commentary on a U.S. field trial of genetically modified diamondback moths continued today, with both supportive stakeholders and activists weighing in. On the Cornell Alliance for Science blog, science advocates Joan Conrow and Mark Lynas summarized the effort. In statements made to *Epoch Times*, Center for Food Safety activists warned of a lack of transparency and potential environmental impacts from the field trials. **See more**

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North America

News: Oregon's Capital Press reports USDA clears gene-edited variety of camelina for use without undergoing regulatory process for biotech crops, because cultivar doesn't pose plant pest risk; Center for Food Safety warns USDA didn't study cultivar's potential to cross-pollinate with conventional camelina

News: Epoch Times reports on launch GM moth field trials in upstate New York, referring to "Frankenbugs" in headline, highlights opposition from GeneWatch and Center for Food Safety, CFS criticized Oxitec for lack of transparency, and worries that some moths may survive to breed in the wild

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writing in Forbes amplifies consumer criticism of Nabisco for taking advantage of "fear and scientific illiteracy" through use of non-GMO label on Triscuits, cites safety of GM technology

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Commentary: Agweek columnist discusses truth in labeling, reports NMPF's Peel Back the Label campaign aims to expose fear-based labeling that props up profits for food manufacturers, costs consumers more, also notes CFS lawsuit against USDA for failing to release study ordered by GE

Labeling Act

News: Eater reports Swiss company announces invention of "ruby chocolate" with pink color; Eater reporter says her research suggests product made from GM cocoa bean processed in particular way to get ruby color, Barry Callebaut AG spokesman declines to discuss how bean developed

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor reports on recent Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Nigeria Media Awards, highlights Director Rose Maxwell Hillary's statement that food prices will soar without embracing biotech, describes Lara Afolayan's win of Best Science Reporter of the year as a "high point" of the night

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Federal Government's announcement of plans to boost GDP using biotech, Ministry of Science and Technology's Abayomi Oguntade noted using biotech would boost food, crop and animal production as well as improve industry, health and the environment

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Asia

News: Indian news site highlights release of National Academy of Agriculture Sciences report refuting anti-GM activist claims critical of GM mustard as "fallacious" distortions of scientific data, notes report citing interest, value of GM technology

News: India's BioVoice reports consortium of Indian scientists leading Tamil Nadu Agricultural University research have identified new way to make imazethapyr-resistant rice; registration predicted to be easy because genetic engineering was not used

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies report by GenØk-Centre for Biosafety which calls for broadening of the debate on development of cisgenic plants, praises the report for recognition of the complex socio-ecological, legal, and political dimensions of the technology

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K. fashion news site reports on German organic fashion brand Cotonea's call on Global Organic Textile Standard International Working Group to investigate allegations that GOTS-certified cotton from India contains GMOs

Commentary: Norwegian agronomist Øystein Heggdal writes for local news outlet in support of gene editing applications in animals, calls on Nowegian ag organizations to listen to science and withdraw from GMO-free food and feed network

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More Europe items

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Event: Brisbane Organic Growers Inc. announces meeting (Sept. 7) to feature Purdue University plant pathologist Don Huber; says Huber's 55 years of research has focused on effects of ag systems, notes significant environmental impacts of GE crops

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 9 04:22 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 include news that Uruguay's capital city may revise its GMO labeling law to ensure greater visibility. In the U.S., Oxitec and Cornell University launched a field trial of genetically engineered moths.

- The municipality of Montevideo has proposed to amend its GMO labeling requirements, which came into force in 2015. Montevideo's Department of Social Development proposed to adjust its required "T" label on transgenic foods in order to make it more obvious for consumers. **See more**
- Oxitec announced that it had begun its field trial of a genetically engineered diamondback moth. The engineered insect is designed to prevent the pest species from reproducing, and it could be key to controlling the moth in areas where it has demonstrated pesticide tolerance. **See more**.
- In India, Maharashtra's state agriculture commissioner has generated controversy, stating that Bt cotton has become susceptible to pink bollworm and calling for prices on Bollgard II varieties to be regulated by the government. Barring price controls, he called for rescinding approval of the trait. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science blog, describing recently launched field trials of GM moths with goal of reducing the pest population, highlights Cornell entomologist Tony Shelton's vision of incorporating GE into integrated pest management systems

Commentary: Scientific American contributor highlights many advancements in biotech, pointing to approval of GE salmon, and development of nitrogen fixing cereal crops for farmers in developing countries without access to fertilizers, hopes EU will approve regulations on new breeding techniques that are favorable to science

Commentary: Marian Tupy of Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity writes for Reason, criticizes Europe's anti-GMO stance, noting it hinders agricultural development in Africa which could help reduce hunger, highlights recent PLOS One study on consequences of delays in biotech crop adoption

News: Politico Pro reports major food associations pushing White House to synchronize deadlines for changes to Nutrition Facts Panel, GMO labeling requirements; groups say coordination would save manufacturers $1.7 billion, meet administration's goal to reduce regulatory burdens

Campaign: Moms Across America urges readers to spread awareness by passing out "Roundup alternatives" flyer to neighbors, encouraging people to buy organic food

Commentary: March Against Monsanto blogger criticizes Oxitec's planned release of GM moths in New York state, highlighting funding by Bill Gates, amplifies objections raised by Northeast Organic Farming

Association of New York (NOFANY)

News: Politico Pro reports University of Florida plant sciences professor Kevin Folta files federal libel suit against The New York Times and its reporter, claiming 2015 article misrepresented his relationship with Monsanto, asserting he has never taken money from any biotech company for research or salary

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news source amplifies Stanford study finding little evidence that organic foods are better for health than non-organic foods; lead researcher says the study found only scant evidence conventional foods pose greater health risks than organic though organic foods were 30 percent less likely to be contaminated by pesticides

News: TVC News Nigeria reports its correspondent, Lara Afolayan won best reporter TV Broadcast category, as well as overall best science reporter in Open Forum on Agriculture Biotechnology Awards

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on criticism of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for confined field trials of GM cassava, highlighting opposition from Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa and Nigerians against GMO, government noted no permits have been granted

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on seed producers' support of GM technology, Seed Producers Association of Ghana President Patrick Osofo Apullah pointed to success of GM cowpea, which he noted boosts production and reduces hazards and financial burdens of chemical use on farmers

Commentary: Arthur Makara of Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development writes open letter to Uganda's president in support of the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, voices concern about certain Cabinet Members' opposition to the bill, notes biotech will enable more sustainable production of commodities like tea

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor summarizes recent biosafety forum in Kampala organized by Uganda's national council for science and technology, highlighting statements by Brazil's Paulo Paes De Andrade, who explained how scientists worked together to fight anti-GMO propaganda, calls for passage of Uganda's biosafety bill

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's opposition to GM mustard commercialization, citing risks to human health, the environment and the economy, in recent letter to Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan

Commentary: University of Missouri professor writes for Brink News, promotes Vandana Shiva's seed bank network in India as well as Earth University, claims a second Green Revolution would be unsuccessful and push Indian farmers further into debt

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor argues Environment Ministry is in need of stability and direction with several pending policy decisions, noting one decision facing new Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan is commercialization of GM mustard

More Asia items

Europe

News release: GeneWatch UK releases new report based on Freedom of Information request information, claims Oxitec's GE mosquito has proven to be ineffective at reducing populations in the Cayman Islands, and that large numbers of biting females have been released

News: Oxford Times reports on launch of Oxitec's field trials of GE moths in upstate New York, Cornell University's Tony Shelton noted the moth will provide a new mode of action for controlling the pest without harming beneficial species

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU's Comitology process, highlighting lack of transparency in member states' votes on GMOs, promotes draft amendments seeking to require that the Commission not adopt measures for which a favorable qualified majority cannot be reached

News release: Testbiotech criticizes European Food Safety Authority's response to its recent letter as "insufficient," reiterating claims that Monsanto secretly funded EFSA's Jose Tarazona's participation in recent conference, warns a professional investigation may be necessary to determine if any laws have been violated

News: France 3 reports on upcoming criminal court appearance of 14 Volunteer Reapers charged with destroying test plots of herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape produced via mutagenesis, following complaint by Dijon - Céréales Cooperative, which will submit a letter to the public prosecutor requesting appearance of all 67 reapers involved

Commentary: Editor of French corporate social responsibility site amplifies two studies, one published in Geographical Review and the other by University of California, which argue that GM crops are unsuitable for climate change, argues GM crops can only thrive in ideal conditions, promotes agroecology

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Department of Social Development of the Municipality of Montevideo's proposal to amend legislation on GMO labeling, to require labeling of products containing more than one percent of GM material

News: Uruguayan news source reports draft decree by city government in capital of Montevideo will require special labels for foods that contain more than 1 percent of genetically modified material; work underway on design for label symbol for foods containing GMOs

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Intendencia of Montevideo's (IMM) plans to change requirements for labeling of transgenic products, making the "T" black in color to improve visibility for consumers

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation announces partnership with industry groups to develop transgenic cotton resistant to cotton boll weevil, has been working to introduce Bt genes to cotton plants in hopes of having seed of cotton resistant to boll weevil available to producers in 10 years

Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexican news outlet, emphasizes importance of protecting Mexican mazie varieties from contamination by transgenic maize, criticizes industry for not wanting Mexican courts to listen to independent experts, and for seeking a lift of the suspension

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Palisa Anderson's organic Thai vegetable farm, she laments Thailand's lifting of the GMO bill, noting many vegetables there are "tainted," making it difficult to find non-GMO vegetables

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 4, 2017
Date: Monday, September 4, 2017 9:17:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a series of articles that aim to clear up misinformation on food and agriculture issues: a trend toward confusing and misleading food labels, misperceptions about the safety and superiority of organic farming and oft-cited false information about the state of the world's bee population.

There's also information about Golden Rice field trials in the Philippines, Uganda's effort to pass a biosafety bill and scientists' views on the safety of glyphosate - even as France announced it could vote against reauthorization of the herbicide.

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 Twifter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Regeneration Vermont

Created two years ago by Food & Water Watch and the Organic Consumers Association, Regeneration Vermont has recently become active in a prominent campaign against Ben & Jerry's.

The NGO has helped organize local protests raising concern about minute levels of glyphosate found in Organic Consumers Association testing of Ben & Jerry's ice cream products,

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine and Andrew Porterfield: Industry GMO research validated by university- and government-funded studies with same findings

Howard Minigh: Neonic regulations should be based on "real-world science," particularly as bee population keeps rising

Josh Bloom: Study linking organic farm chemical to asthma should eliminate misconceptions about organic farming

Isaac Ongu: "Poor pay the price" for delays in passing Uganda biosafety bill

Brandon McFadden: "Gluten-free" water the latest example of absurdity in labeling what isn't in food products

Steven Novella: Greenpeace, other NGOs to blame for misinforming public on genetically modified foods

Richard Starr: French government's lists of endocrine-disrupting chemicals lack credibility, mislead public

Tim Durham: Labels fool consumers as "implied benefits" of organic foods are actually non-existent

New Zealand EPA chief scientist: No credible risk of glyphosate causing cancer

attempting to pressure the company into adopting fully organic practices.

Learn more about Regeneration Vermont by clicking HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

University of Guelph professor: Reviews by Health Canada, other regulators show 40-year safety record

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Field trials on Golden Rice to move forward in Philippines

National Milk Producers Federation "Peel Back the Label" campaign seeks to expose deceptive food labeling

Dozens of Democrats demand assurances from U.S. EPA that independent science will be considered in review of neonics

France threatens to vote against EU reauthorization of glyphosate

NGO Food & Water Watch sues U.S. Department of Agriculture in bid to block funding of Maryland farm it accuses of causing water pollution

Calendar highlights

September 4-6	September 4-8	September 4-15
International Organisation for Biological and Integrated Control working group ""GMOs in integrated plant production"	African Green Revolution Forum	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)
September 5-6	**September 5-7**	**September 5-8**
British Science Festival, including presentations on neonics and bees	European Organic Congress (Estonia)	Western Apicultural Society annual conference (California)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:25:25 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a South Korean government agency saying it would stop attempting to commercialize GM crops as part of an agreement with civic groups. GE salmon developer AquaBounty is monitoring the Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding electronic coding in lieu of GMO labels.

- South Korea's Rural Development Agency announced that after months of meetings with regional civic groups, it would halt efforts to commercialize GM food. As part of the agreement, the RDA also will close its National Center for GM Crops. **See more**.
- Seafood industry news site *Undercurrent News* reported AquaBounty is keeping a close eye on the Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against the USDA for failing to meet a deadline for a study on QR code use to disclose GM ingredients in food. The Grocery Manufacturers Association also argued that labeling should apply to refined oil and sweeteners to ensure transparency. **See more.**

Due to the Labor Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine and Andrew Porterfield examine whether industry funding of research produces biased findings; anti-GMO activists dismiss research supporting GMO safety consensus over funding, relationship with corporation, but organic food industry funds research by Benbrook, Seralini

News: The Washington Post reports FDA still has given no guidance on definition of "natural" in food labeling, prompting lawsuits from consumers, including one against dairy giant Sargento because its "natural" cheeses come from cows given GM feed; plaintiff argues products made from their milk can't be labeled "natural"

News: Food Navigator reports NMPF campaign alerts consumers to deceptive marketing; Dannon, Dean Foods say they are meeting consumer demand with non-GMO commitments and labeling; NMPF president responds we should "address fears, not perpetuate them"

Commentary: Mississippi newspaper runs op-ed by guest columnist blaming lack of GMO labeling for problem of obesity among state's African-American population, equating processed foods with added preservatives to GMOs

Commentary: Techdirt contributor amplifies recent Mother Jones article on biotech industry efforts to pass "ag-gag" seed-preemption laws to prevent cities and counties from restricting GMOs, argues that biotech companies don't really care about farmers

Commentary: Collective Evolution writer argues Monsanto-Bayer merger includes plan to take over cannabis industry by buying out producers, criticizes Monsanto for developing GMOs, warns combined company could create monopoly on marijuana seeds

Commentary: In second part of 2-part series, Rabble blogger suggests ways to fight "corporate propaganda," says most Canadians oppose GMOs but supermarket shelves stocked with GM food, claims corporations induce scientists to support their viewpoints

More North America items

Africa

News: Daily Nation reports scientists call on Kenyan government to allow farmers to grow GM maize, argue delay in approval costing country billions, causing hardship for farmers as conventional maize crops ruined by drought, diseases, pests such as corn borer and fall army worm

Campaign: African Centre for Biodiversity writes open letter questioning secrecy surrounding Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, calling on governments of Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique to answer specific questions, claims WEMA's real goal is to facilitate spread of GM maize

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Pakistani news outlet contributor examines potential solutions to the country's diminishing ag economy, points to success of GM crops in China, India and Bangladesh, laments that GM technology in Pakistan is limited to only cotton

News: Times of India reports on reassignment of Maharashtra state Ag Commissioner Sunil Kendrekar after only three months, likely due to his implementation of policies unfavorable to seed and fertilizer lobbies, such as his ban of Bt cotton, which he claims no longer effectively controls pink bollworm

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes parliamentary panel's continued questioning of GMO safety and demands for more study, detailing extensive research showing safety of Bt cotton, argues they cannot distinguish facts from alternative facts

News: Brazil-based edition of Le Monde Diplomatique reports NGOs attempt to keep major seed manufacturers from bringing GM seed to Africa, notes NGOs accuse companies of "ecological crime"

News: Filipino food news site reports Agriculture Department sets rules for GM research, says it ensures safety in Golden Rice and other GM crop development -

News: The Manila Times reports IRRI developing rice resistant to climate-change, readies for human testing on Golden Rice, asks Philippines to invest in science education

More Asia items

Europe

News: Feed Navigator reports European Food Safety Authority is unable to conclude safety of feed material produced by fermentation with E. coli, for certain animals and for meat consumers

News: Sputnik reports on American science writer Jon Cohen's take on CRISPR developments, he highlights several potential applications in medicine, but voices concern about potential off-target effects, points to debate over how the technology should be regulated

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM criticizes "biased" parliamentary office's report recommending decision making regarding biotechnology be based upon scientific knowledge rather than opinion, and based upon national academies' recommendations

Commentary: French news site says there is no way to assess the dangers presented by GE salmon that is allowed on the market in Canada, says industry refuses to release data so it's impossible to assess possible health, environmental impacts

News: Polish GMO blogger promotes book on GM food that questions if GMOs are as bad as some politicians and celebrities claim; notes Kenya approves trials for GM maize, cotton; reports India will not rush GM mustard commercialization

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor amplifies activist Silvia Ribeiro's claims about dangers of glyphosate use on GM crops, pointing to litigation against Monsanto in the US over allegations that it causes cancer

Commentary: Mexican organic NGO profiles seed bank and agroecological cooperative that seek to preserve country's traditional seeds to preserve food independence

Video: Argentinian NGO posts interview on YouTube with ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro about new gene editing techniques; Ribeiro warns potential damage evident "not only in natural and agricultural ecosystems, but also its potential use as a weapon of war"

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Care2 contributor cites new study showing Australians feel more confident, knowledgeable in science that ever before, notes less than half of Australians feel safe eating GM food but admits no scientific basis for belief GMO food unsafe for consumption

News: Australian business news site reports growing national demand and export market means organic producers cannot keep up with demand; notes health is biggest reason consumers buy organic food, but "science is out on whether going organic makes any difference"

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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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 notable coverage of a Bogota, Colombia, screening of the science documentary "Food Evolution." In the U.S., a dairy industry group called for grocery makers to stop using "deceptive" front-of-package labeling claims.

- The debut of "Food Evolution" in Bogota generated coverage and response in Colombia news outlets. An *Agencia EFE* report on the film's opening featured comments from representatives of Agro-Bio and highlighted an expert panel scheduled for after the screening. The news outlet also interviewed U.S. plant researcher Kevin Folta, one of the panelists. **See more**
- The National Milk Producers Federation launched a new campaign criticizing food manufacturers' use of fear-based front-of-package labeling claims. The group highlighted the use of "non-GMO" labeling claims as an example of the "deceptive" practice. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: National Milk Producers Federation launches "Peel Back the Label," new campaign to expose deceptive front-of-package food labeling, highlight need for responsible food marketing, focusing on fear-based marketing claims about GMOs, including "GMO-free"

News: Agweek reports dairy farmers launch campaign against deceptive, fear-based food labeling practices

News: Food Navigator reports, despite lawsuit claims, USDA still studying feasibility of using QR codes to disclose GM ingredients, agency suggests QR codes will not harm consumers' ability to identify GM food

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know profiles pro-GMO writer Kavin Senapathy, discusses why Forbes deleted articles she co-wrote with Henry Miller, links her to Genetic Literacy Project, which it calls "agrichemical industry front group" and notes her work with March Against Myths of Modification

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association issues email blast asking supporters to post on Twitter urging late-night TV hosts Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Fallon to end support for Ben & Jerry's ice cream; calls on Ben & Jerry's to commit to 100 percent organic supply chain

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan farmers hoping biotech cotton can revive sector that has seen decline in production because of uncontrolled African bollworm problem; government and Monsanto developing GM cotton variety resistant to the pest, but Kenya will have to lift ban on GMOs before farmers can

cultivate it

News: Zimbabwe news source reports keynote speaker at recent scientific meeting sparks fresh debate on GMOs by openly claiming they are safe for human consumption; biochemist Christopher Chetsanga counters claims anti-GMO health claims, but government minister defends Zimbabwe's anti-GMO policies

News: Namibian Economist reports National Commission on Research, Science and Technology establishing Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organism testing laboratory to facilitate full implementation of nation's Biosafety Framework; labs will provide testing services for GMOs

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ongu emphasizes importance of passing Uganda's biosafety bill, noting farmers are being denied access to pest-resistant maize technology that could save crops from fall armyworm attack, highlights points of agreement between anti-GMO activists and GMO proponents regarding the bill

More Africa items

Asia

News: Mint reports Indian farmers claim superior yields by growing traditional mustard varieties using new method of cultivation known as system of mustard intensification; Indian officials still considering whether to allow transgenic technology to improve mustard yields, would become nation's first transgenic food crop

Commentary: Indian environmental news outlet contributor highlights decline in India's biodiversity and challenges in protecting it, criticizes recent Economic Survey's support of GMOs to boost food production, arguing they are not serious about conserving biodiversity

News: Vietnamese news site reports Ministry of Finance announces reduction in fees for appraising GMO biosafety certification

News: Filipino food news site reports IRRI research finds Golden Rice is as safe and nutritious as conventional rice, but has added beta carotene to fight malnutrition

More Asia items

Europe

News: Times Higher Education reports on its recent survey, in which Nobel Laureates warned against rise of populism and political polarization as major threats to science, one laureate noted "blatant disregard for scientific opinion" on use of GM crops to feed the hungry was "disgusting"

News: Belgian news outlet reports on concerns surrounding mega agribusiness mergers, with focus on Bayer-Monsanto deal, highlights opposition in the US and from African Centre for Biodiversity, as well as competition concerns in Europe

News: Swiss NGO reports Bayer-Monsanto acquisition likely will not be completed in 2017 as EU Commission announces plans for further investigation

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies Potato Business article on company developing non-GMO blight-resistant potatoes, says "conventional breeding has outstripped GM"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports on Kevin Folta's recent presentation at a screening of Food Evolution in Bogota, where he noted legislation and consumer acceptance are the greatest challenges in bringing biotech crops to farmers, he pointed out environmental benefits, and noted they are safe for humans

Commentary: Colombian news outlet contributor examines GMO debate, highlights critical stance presented in Netflix's "Okja," as well as arguments presented in "Food Evolution," points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes that for future applications, "our imagination is the limit"

News: Agencia EFE reports on upcoming screening of Food Evolution documentary in Bogota, Colombia, Agricultural Biotechnology Association (Agro-Bio) noted the film addresses the controversy surrounding GMOs, which is frequently fueled by fear, an expert panel will follow the screening, including Kevin Folta

Commentary: Brazilian anti-capitalist news outlet criticizes "illegitimate government" of Michel Temer for seeking to end GMO labeling requirements, promotes #DeOlhoNoT Twitter campaign against the measure, amplifies recent statements from Greenpeace and Consumer Defense Institute (IDEC)

Campaign: Greenpeace Brazil urges supporters to join its #DeOlhoNoT Twitter campaign in opposition to a provisional measure that would eliminate mandatory GMO labeling, echos Consumer Protection Institute's (IDEC) statement that such a move would be a setback for consumer rights

News: Argentine news site reports Agroindustry Ministry meets with industry officials to discuss changes to regulatory framework governing cotton seed

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 30, 2017
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 9 00 56 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 Philippine Department of Agriculture had approved a field trial for Golden Rice. In Brazil, a consumer advocacy group launched a Twitter campaign to protest a draft law that would adjust the country's requirements for GMO labeling.

- News outlets in the Philippines announced that the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) would begin field trials of a beta carotene-enriched Golden Rice. In discussing the trials, PhilRice leaders noted that the field trials would demonstrate the environmental safety of the crop. **See more**.
- In Brazil, the Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC) launched a Twitter campaign along with Greenpeace and other NGOs. Under the #DeOlhoNoT campaign, the groups urged the government not to loosen GMO labeling regulations in the country. **See more**.
- U.S. news outlets and activists continued to respond to the recent close of a comment period on GMO labeling. Agriculture news outlets amplified a Center for Food Safety lawsuit calling for the release of a required survey on digital GMO ingredient disclosures. The American Farm Bureau Federation released the comments it had submitted on the proposed labeling law. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Agri-Pulse reports on stakeholders' responses to questions on GMO labeling by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, highlighting some areas of agreement between Grocery Manufacturers Association and Organic Trade Association

Commentary: Food Dive contributor examines Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against USDA for failing to release study on electronic disclosure methods for GMO labeling, believes the study is an important milestone for the federal GMO labeling law, arguing it is just as vital to those who support use of QR codes

Interview: Sustainable Brands talks to USFRA's Randy Krotz about need to use technology in food production; he says farmers who don't use GMOs see impacts on sustainability, including more tillage that causes loss of soil, more cultivation and herbicide applications to control weeds, more use of insecticides

Audio: American Farm Bureau Federation submits comments to USDA with recommendations for its GMO labeling standard, AFBF congressional relations director Andrew Walmsley emphasized importance of not confusing consumers about safety of biotech crops, noting the labeling is purely a marketing standard

News release: Cornucopia Institute announces release of its short video, "Sick Cows/Sick People-The Grassfed Antidote," encouraging viewers to seek out USDA organic and 100% grass-fed labeled beef,

noting it will be free from GMOs, pesticides, hormones and antibiotics

News: St. Louis Public Radio reports new political lobby group formed to oppose big agriculture in Missouri; issues include water pollution, restricting CAFOs and opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Agricultural Technology Foundation blogger recounts recent conversation with former president of Africa Cotton Producers Association (APROCA), Francois Traore, who explains why farmers in Burkina Faso wish they could return to Bt cotton, highlighting yield advantages

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow Nkechi Isaac examines potential food shortages in Nigeria if fall armyworm pest is left unchecked, highlights Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Nigeria Chapter coordinator Rose Gidado's statement that adopting biotech maize varieties will provide a lasting solution

News: Tanzanian news source reports International Institute for Tropical Agriculture says scientists identify first genetic markers associated with resistance to Cassava Brown Streak Disease and Cassava Mosaic Disease in Namikonga and Albert varieties of cassava; markers may assist in pre-emptive breeding

Commentary: NewsDay Zimbabwe runs op-ed by retired president of International Fund for Agricultural Development who argues smallholder farms, not industries that extract minerals, will fuel Africa's economic growth, promotes African Green Revolution Forum to be held Sept. 4 through 8 in Cote d'Ivoire

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino radio station reports Golden Rice has potential to help fight vitamin A deficiency that affects millions in nation, can cause weakening of immune system, blurred vision, blindness, death

News release: Philippine Rice Research Institute promotes science behind Golden Rice research, says GM grain aims to help millions of children, pregnant and nursing mothers suffering from vitamin A deficiency, asserts Golden Rice no different from ordinary rice aside from beta carotene that provides vitamin A

News: The Philippines' BusinessWorld reports PhilRice touting field trials for GM Golden Rice will show benefits of delivering vitamin A through staple grain being developed as potential solution to address vitamin A deficiency; health and environmental groups cite uncertainty of releasing GM products into field

News: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update reports Myanmar's permanent secretary for Ministry of Agriculture calls for biotech crop regulation to be based on sound science, highlights how introduction of biotech cotton to Myanmar benefited resource-poor cotton farmers

Commentary: Pakistan news outlet contributor calls for shift toward organic, conservational ag practices to meet the country's growing food needs, pointing to health risks of GMOs and associated pesticides

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: German anti-GMO organization VLOG reports on Brazil's development of GM sugarcane, highlights potential contamination of conventional cane sugar during processing

Commentary: Editor of Irish farming news site considers debate over whether Ireland should go GMO-

free, says it's about consumer demand and whether it's viable for Irish farmers to meet that demand, concludes it could be significant opportunity for livestock and tillage farmers, government must ensure they benefit from going GM-free

News: French news outlet reports on group of Volunteer Reapers gathered in support of Martine Pivart and Marie Nicolas, summoned before gendarmerie of Quimper for participating in vandalizing GM soybeans imported from South America, the two refused to respond to the gendarmes or to give DNA samples

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection's (Idec) twitter campaign, in partnership with Greenpeace and other groups, aimed at convincing President Michel Temer not to sign a decree to remove mandatory GMO labeling, over 94,000 signatures have been collecting in support of keeping the label

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on twitter campaign promoted by Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (Idec), in partnership with Greenpeace and other organizations, urging supporters to tweet using hashtag #DeOlhoNoT to ask President Michel Temer not to sign a decree to remove mandatory GMO labeling

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Campeche Secretary of Rural Development, Armando Toledo Jamit's recent statement that Mennonites are not planting GM soybeans, noting allegations brought by Yucatan's Secretary of Urban Development and Environment must be supported by documents and names

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on President Mauricio Macri's agreement for regulation of the Biotech Law, adding tax benefits for companies, Production Minister Francisco Cabrera noted biotech impacts the agricultural, food, pharmaceutical and productivity sectors

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA) announces launch of third edition of "The Official Australian Reference Guide to Agricultural Biotechnology and GM Crops" at recent AusBiotech AusAg & Foodtech Summit

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 developments included new media coverage of a Nigerian activist campaign criticizing GM cassava, as well as commentary on a U.S. federal GM labeling law.

- Nigerian news outlets *Vanguard* and *The Guardian* reported on an NGO campaign launched by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and others who criticized the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture over its application to field trial a GM cassava variety. The activists warned that corporations planned to take "total control" over Nigeria's agriculture. **See more**
- Media outlets continued to review the status of the U.S. government's GM labeling guidelines, including an activist lawsuit claiming that the rule-making procedures for the law had been violated. *Food Dive*, reporting on New York's delay of a calorie labeling law, indicated that states were considering whether to move forward on laws such as the Vermont GM labeling law in the absence of federal activity. *Food Navigator* summarized industry responses to a U.S. Department of Agriculture request for comment on the law. **See more**

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North America

News: Law360 reports on Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against USDA for failing to publicly release a study on digital disclosure options for GM foods, which will likely delay implementation of the 2016 GMO labeling law

News: Food Dive reports New York officials agree to delay city's menu labeling law for restaurants and food retailers until May 2018; if USDA misses deadline on GMO labeling law by July 2018, Vermont and other jurisdictions may start enforcing own laws but could face pushback from U.S. Justice Department

News: Food & Wine magazine reports on development of GM moths to help save cabbage and other crops threatened by diamondback moths, University of Georgia vegetable entomologist David Riley explains that they have to deal with the pest year-round, and that they become resistant to insecticides

Commentary: ACSH's Hank Campbell discusses advent of GMO insulin in 1970s, notes controversy regarding its development, introduction of Humulin in 1982, suggests activists promoted belief that the research was risky; compares to GM food debates today

Commentary: On his NeuroLogica Blog, Dr. Steven Novella discusses problem of misinformation among public about GMOs, blaming 20-year anti-GMO campaign by organic food lobby and Greenpeace for creating largest gap (51 percent) of any topic covered between what scientists and public believe about GMOs

Commentary: The Conversation runs piece by University of Florida food economics professor using example of "gluten-free" water to show absurdity of trend in labeling products to indicate what's absent from them, predicting new federal GMO labeling law taking effect in 2018 will signal to consumers that bio-engineered foods are bad

More North America items

Africa

Video: KTN News Kenya posts YouTube video from site of GM maize field trials, with officials saying the GM maize achieved yields about 40 percent higher than conventional maize while demonstrating resistance to insect pests, including armyworms

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on allegations by coalition of 87 groups, including Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and Nigerians against GMOs, that International Institute of Tropical Agriculture seeks to push GM cassava on the Nigerian market, threatening agriculture and food safety

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) application for field trial and biosafety permit for food, feed and processing of golden rice, following recent confined field trial confirming its safety, government assured consumers that it will be similarly priced as ordinary rice

More Asia items

Europe

News release: UN's FAO promotes partnership with African Orphan Crops Consortium to sequence genomes of 101 under-utilized African crops, make information public, train African plant scientists to improve nutritional value and yields of those crops, as well as make them better able to withstand effects of climate change

Commentary: CEO of Italian agro-food multinational, Sipcam-Oxon, Giovanni Affaba, examines financial trends in ag commodities, points to paradox in Europe's prohibition of GM crop cultivation while importing GM feed from elsewhere, opposes large agribusiness mergers, believes seed and chemical sectors should be kept separate

Campaign: La Via Campesina and GRAIN translate April 2015 infographic into Vietnamese urging farmers to fight seed laws, "join forces with other farmers" and "build alliances with other movements"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) scientists' recent progress in developing a disease-resistant potato variety, study director Rita María Ulloa noted environmental benefit of reduced fungicide use

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on CEMA University's recent workshop on potential and challenges facing Argentina's seed industry, Daniel Lema explained how genetics contribute to Total Factor Productivity (TFP), in which production increases over use of conventional inputs, Miguel Rapela discussed advances in CRISPR

News: Brazilian news source reports Parana indigenous community creates agroecological system of 600 hectares that's 100 percent free of transgenics, pesticides, seen as area of resistance in region characterized by monoculture farming; Creole Seed and Native Seed Trade Fair aims to recover traditional seeds sacred to Guarani people

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, August 28, 2017 9:04:25 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 U.S. activist group filing a lawsuit demanding the federal government proceed with a rule-making process on GM food labeling. India's Niti Aayog report outlining an agricultural development road map prompted discussion on the country's experience with GM crops.

- Center for Food Safety announced that it was suing the Trump administration for ignoring the rule-making process required in order to implement a federal GM labeling standard. Specifically, the group claims that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has ignored a Congressional mandate to obtain public comments on a proposed digital labeling scheme. **See more**
- Indian activists criticized the recent Niti Aayog economic survey, which outlined the country's agricultural agenda for the next three years. *Down to Earth* magazine claimed that the report overstated Indian farmers' enthusiasm for Bt cotton and pointed to recent problems with pink bollworm attacks. *Mint* reported that a parliamentary panel asked the environment ministry to assess whether Bt cotton had been an economic success in the region. **See more**
- *Agence France-Presse* and other French media outlets previewed the Aug. 30 premiere of "Histoires de la plaine," a new documentary claiming that agricultural pesticides and GM seeds damaged the livelihoods and health of rural village residents. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: Center for Food Safety files lawsuit against Trump administration for failing to complete mandated study on "electronic and digital disclosures," such as QR codes, for GM foods, which USDA was required to complete with a public comment period by July 2017, reiterates opposition to electronic labeling

Commentary: Professor and Director of Food Studies Initiatives at The New School, Fabio Parasecoli, writes for Huffington Post, amplifies S. Margot Finn's new book on class anxiety and America's food revolution, highlights her argument that ideologies against GMOs and pesticides tend to be held by the "liberal elite"

News: Business Insider reports Glowing Plant Kickstarter campaign raised nearly $500,000 to create GE glow-in-the-dark plant, quotes CEO of Taxa Biotechnologies, which was behind effort, saying idea too ambitious for what's currently possible with synthetic biology; GM scented moss developed from effort now on market

News: Portland Press Herald reports proposed introduction of GE chestnut tree to replace North American species devastated by chestnut blight may cause controversy, still must be approved by USDA, EPA, FDA; supporters say they must prove wheat gene engineered into tree has no unintended consequences

More North America items

Africa

Video: ISAAA's AfriCenter posts YouTube video showing Kenyan farmers visiting a GMO maize crops field site for the first time; farmer interviewed says seeing the GMO maize make him wish government would help farmers by lifting its ban on GMO crops so they can benefit from technology

Letter to the editor: Times of Swaziland runs letter from agriculture consultant rebutting its article about "dangers" of proposed GMO cotton, saying most arguments against GM technology misleading or false, arguing GM deployed to save costs, not to increase yields dramatically

News: Zimbabwe's Daily News reports scientist says government's anti-GMO policy lacks scientific basis, is erroneous; he urges government to embrace GM crops, as South Africa and Botswana have done, to improve harvests, reduce crop production costs, but agriculture minister insists government's position against GMOs clear

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent statement by Health of Mother Earth Foundation and 87 other civil society groups in opposition to Institute for Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for field trials of a GM cassava variety, HOMEF Director Ninmmo Bassey claimed it would endanger Nigerian agriculture

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian textile industry news outlet reports on recent report by parliamentary panel accusing government agencies of portraying "a rosy picture" of Bt cotton's performance, and arguing that claims about increased yield need further examination

News: Indian news outlet reports on parliamentary panel's request that Environment Ministry conduct a study on whether or not Bt cotton is a success, amid debate on allowing GM crop commercialization, the panel believes government data tries to "portray a rosy picture" about Bt cotton production

News: Indian environmental news outlet reports on NITI Aayog's three-year action plan for agriculture, their report argues that Indian farmers have "enthusiastically embraced" GM seeds, while agricultural experts argue farmers are rejecting Bt cotton due to insect resistance

Report: Third World Network report examines potential impact of developments in gene sequencing and synthetic biology on biopiracy, hopes that rich countries will not derail discussion on ensuring that synbio will not undermine 25 years of efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's access and benefit-sharing provisions

News: Korea JoongAng Daily reports public calling for stricter regulation of GM products among reports many ramen products made with GM ingredients; government concludes ingredients passed inspection, safe to use, but opponents cite possible side effects, call for stricter labeling rules

News: Chinese news outlet reports Tianjin authorities sent back over 350 tons of GM alfalfa from the US, due to a non-GMO customs declaration, commercialized GM alfalfa planting is not yet authorized in China

More Asia items

Europe

News: France's Midi Libre reports news release from anti-GMO Reapers group that uprooted sunflower seedlings in field trial in Belarga commune; group calls on EU to end French exception allowing plants derived from new mutagenesis technique to avoid regulation

Commentary: French news outlet contributor writes positive review of "Stories of the Plain" documentary by Christine Seghezzi, which depicts devastation of an Argentinian village allegedly caused

by use of GM soybeans and associated pesticides

News: French news outlet reports on AquaBounty's GE salmon, highlighting its parent company Intrexon

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson responds to recent blog post accusing the NGO of siding with industry on animal testing, argues that biotech and pesticide companies like Monsanto seek to prevent animal testing of their products, notes that while animal testing is not ideal, it can be a buffer "between us and a slow-poisoning catastrophe"

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces rejection of proposal to increase social controls over transgenics by Commission on Science, Technology, Innovation, Communication and Information Technology (CCT), on the grounds that it removes autonomy from National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio)

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Los Chenes Collective attorney Jorge Fernández's accusations that entrepreneurs and Mennonites are continuing to illegally plant GM soybeans and devastate forests, arguing that no one wants to stop them, claiming consultation process with Mayan communities is a "mere simulation"

Commentary: Paraguayan news outlet contributor summarizes first part of "GMOs Revealed" documentary series, highlights claims about weed resistance and negative health effects of glyphosate, as well as criticism of industry ties to US government regulatory agencies

News: Paraguay's Ultima Hora reports 70 technicians from Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock take part in training and updating session on technologies for cotton production, including management of GMO cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand praises growing political consensus against open release of GMOs in the country, highlighting findings of Science Media Centre's 2017 survey on political party views on GMOs

News: Huffington Post Australia reports on results of Australian National University's "Australian Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Science Survey," which found that nearly two thirds of respondents believe that produce treated with pesticides is unsafe, but were less concerned about GMOs

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 28, 2017
Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 4:02:42 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

JoAnn Allumbaugh boiled down the Organic Consumers Association's latest attack on glyphosate to its essence: "Eat This and Die." In her piece for the Pork Network, Allumbaugh explains the well-worn scare-mongering tactic and urges readers not to buy into the alarmist headlines it brings. Our stakeholder profile for the week explores a similar tactic by the marketing group Only Organic, which is attempting to scare up business by convincing parents their children's school lunches are dangerous if they aren't organic.

Other pieces on this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter respond to the "GMOs Revealed" video series, explore new research on neonicotinoids and describe how biotechnology could engineer a response to armyworm issues 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: Gary Hirshberg

It's back to school season and marketers, like Gary Hirshberg, are back sending messages to parents about the foods that should be in their children's lunches.

Stories Worth Sharing

JoAnn Allumbaugh: Reject "Eat This and Die" scare tactics like anti-glyphosate campaign against Ben & Jerry's

Utah Public Radio highlights Kevin Folta-led effort to build consumer trust through better science communication

Tim Barker: "GMOs Revealed" web series features arguments from anti-GMO's fringe elements

Tom Allen-Stevens: Farmers should "stick up for" neonics amid promotion of study that discounted favorable and neutral findings

Angela Logomasini: New York Times' attempt at exposé on U.S. chlorpyrifos regulation only exposed "foolish reporting"

Richard Morrison: "Food Evolution" documentary shows the "very real problems" GM crops are helping to solve

University of Sussex researchers find foraging resources from neonic-treated oilseed rape "potentially offset" impact of pesticides

Alex Berezow: No conspiracy to debunking of endocrine disruptor research -- it just was "not very well done"

Isaac Ongu: Re-emergence of fall armyworms underscores "critical need" for African countries to adopt GM crops

This week, the message from the Hirshberg-led lobby group Only Organic was conventional foods may result in lower IQs and other serious health risks for children.

Learn more about Stonyfield Organic CEO Gary Hirshberg HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology study demonstrates possibility of combining essential micronutrients into rice plant to address hunger

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What's Trending?

NGO Global 2000 issues update on tests finding glyphosate in popular German and Austrian beers

European Commission starts in-depth investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto; ruling expected by Jan. 8

Judge considers removing plaintiffs' attorneys from glyphosate case after they released classified Monsanto documents

U.S. EPA schedules series of 10 conference calls to gather input on rewrite of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule

Calendar highlights

August 31 - September 1	September 4-8	September 4-15
EU SynBioS Symposium: Engineering Biology for a Better Future	African Green Revolution Forum	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 25-27, 2017
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2017 9:40:29 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an Indian parliamentary panel asking the environment ministry to delay the introduction of GM mustard.

- Media reported an Indian parliamentary panel criticized the environment ministry's assessment process for GMOs, calling it susceptible to manipulation. The panel also called on the ministry not to introduce GM mustard until it evaluates the crop's impacts on the environment human health. **See more**
- Nigerian NGO Health of Mother Earth Foundation and other groups urged the Nigerian government to reject field trials for GM cassava, claiming it will be the end of food safety in the country. A HOMEF news release also said the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, a pan-African civil society platform, asked the government to ban Monsanto's "second-generation gene-silencing genetically modified (GM) maize." **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Michigan State University researchers write for The Conversation, say Americans disconnected from farms find biotech food confusing, even wealthier consumers not sure whom to believe in GM crop debates

Commentary: Alternet contributor accuses Cornell University of acting like a PR firm for GMOs, pesticides and junk food, pointing to professors that have authored pro-GMO papers, and claiming Cornell Alliance for Science is a "PR front for the agrichemical industry"

Commentary: Charles Benbrook blog amplifies William Moseley's agroecology comments, says GMOs will never promote global food security because they are not made for poor farmers around the world

Commentary: Libertarian think tank blogger praises "Food Evolution" documentary, notes NGO's long history of standing up for "unfairly maligned" techniques of recombinant DNA engineering, scientists who practice it, cites millions fed with GM crops worldwide, calls for more informed discussion of kind spurred by film

More North America items

Africa

News release: Health of Mother Earth Foundation urges government to reject field trial application for GM cassava, claims it will harm human health, calls for banning Monsanto's second-generation, gene-edited maize

News: Xinhua reports researcher for Water Efficient Maize for Africa Kenya claims biotech maize resistant to stem borer could enhance yields, boost country's food security; experiments on Bt maize ongoing at Kenya Livestock and Agriculture Research Organization site in Kiboko

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity claims seed law proposal in South Africa would threaten farmers' rights to save seeds, threatens food security in country that already lacks food security

News: Catholic news outlet reports on Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners of Nigeria's warning that adopting GMOs without adequate safety assurances is "immoral," pointing to potential negative consequences on human health and the environment

More Africa items

Asia

News: Tehran Times reports Iran's Environment minister says GMO opponents have no proof of GM crops' adverse effects; says opponents "are all talk"

News: Press Trust of India reports on Coalition for a GM-Free India's criticism of biotech regulator GEAC's recommendation for commercial use of GM mustard, following recent report by parliamentary panel criticizing Environment Ministry's GMO regulatory process

News: Press Trust of India reports on government think-tank Niti Aayog's support of use of GM seeds, arguing that concerns about monopolization by multinationals can be addressed by limiting use of GM seeds to those developed by domestic institutions and companies

News: Times of India reports on recent report by parliamentary standing committee on science & technology and environment & forests, pointing out several loopholes in existing GM crop evaluations, and calling on Environment Ministry to thoroughly evaluate environmental impact of GM mustard

News: Press Trust of India reports parliamentary panel says no GM crop should be introduced in country unless biosafety, socio-economic desirability evaluated in "transparent" process with accountability regime in place; India's GM crop regulator recently recommended commercial use of GM mustard

News: China Radio International reports on Tanzanian government's proposal of using gene editing technology to improve crops such as maize, rice and cassava, National Biotechnology Forum Adviser (OFAB) Nicholus Nyange highlighted importance of making crops more resilient to climate change

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Danish news site op-ed says GMOs can help protect environment and feed the world; says biotech makes food production more efficient, reduces famine and ag's environmental impact

News: Romanian news site reports EU competition commissioner launches investigation into Bayer-Monsanto merger, fears purchase would reduce competition in seed, pesticide market

News: France 3 reports on Syppre project's accusation that Volunteer Reapers attacked their sunflower test plots by mistake, noting they are not GMOs, and that absence of weeds is due to mechanical weeding, not herbicide tolerance

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports farmers suffering from drought and pests request government to allow GMO cultivation; biotechnologist says many requests come from small farmers

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on potential advances in gene editing in the country, Marcelo Gravina of Information Council on Biotechnology highlighted several successful applications in the US, pointed to increased accuracy and efficiency of the technology

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on opposition to bill that would remove "T" symbol from food packaging, over objection that it reduces amount of information to consumers on transgenic foods, although passed by the Chamber of Deputies, it faces resistance in the Senate

News: Ecuadorian ecological news site reports on Aug. 14 protests by indigenous and environmental groups in Quito against decision to allow GM seeds and crops in country for research purposes

News: Mexican news outlet reports on concerns about GMOs amid NAFTA renegotiations, analyst Guillermo Correa Bárcenas urged caution, pointing to potential impact on small and medium-sized farmers that save seeds to promote biodiversity, arguing that allowing patents on GM seeds will only benefit large biotech companies

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: University of Melbourne professor writes for Cosmos that the more scientific education a person has, the more likely they will become polarized on issues such as climate change, evolution

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 draft food law in Bulgaria that would prohibit advertising GM foods to children. In Mexico, activists claimed that Mennonite farmers had continued to plant GM soy despite a judicial moratorium.

- The Bulgarian government released a new draft food law for review by the National Assembly. Among other provisions, the law would impose fines for marketing GM foods to children. **See more**
- In the Yucatan, the Secretary of Urban Development and Environment (Seduma) accused Mennonite farmers in the region of illegally planting GM soy despite a judge's decision blocking the crops. The Quintana Roo delegate of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) rejected the claim. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Gregory Jaffe of Center for Science in the Public Interest makes recommendations for how USDA should proceed in regulating GMO disclosure, believes any information provided to consumers should be factually accurate, neutral and not misleading, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety

Commentary: ACSH posts Alex Berezow piece reporting EU regulators may reject Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, noting that it approved mergers involving DuPont, Syngenta; EU may be concerned about impact Bayer-Monsanto merger could have on competition in seed business

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project managing editor Tim Barker notes "GMOs Revealed" series relies on worn anti-biotech arguments from the activist fringe, produced by climate-change-denying filmmaker

Commentary: Inquisitr freelance writer questions whether GMOs, glyphosate directly or indirectly cause allergic reactions, possibly by altering gut microbiome; also questions if vaccines promote allergic reactions

News: Gizmodo amplifies Carnegie Mellon University study showing that among people predisposed to disbelieve scientific evidence about controversial topics because of their religious or political views, more education about subject may increase their disbelief; study found views on GMOs appear unaffected

More North America items

Africa

News: SciDev.Net reports study in PLOS One suggests delay in approving use of GM crops contributing to malnutrition, poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa; study co-author says GM crops such as banana and

maize could help save lives in some Sub-Saharan countries, approving GM crops can increase economic growth

News: Nigerian environment news site reports on Health of Mother Earth Foundation's objection to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for confined field trials of a GM cassava variety, HOMEF claims IITA is using a new gene silencing technology that has never been tested before

Commentary: NGO Rural Women's Assembly reports on gathering from nine SADC countries to "speak out against the Farmer Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs) and the challenges they are creating for women farmers", group demands SADC heads of state re-think FISPs to support agroecology, phase out pesticides and chemical fertilizers and resist GMOs

News: Zimbabwean news site reports Prof. Christopher Chetsanga criticizes government policy banning GMOs, notes 20 years of consumption in US without harm; minister chastises Chetsanga for being confrontational rather than building trust by pointing out genetic modification in medicine

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Business World runs op-ed by Indian government official forecasting country's agricultural future, predicting genetic enhancement in crops, livestock will have to be considered as option to enhance productivity, meet new challenges of higher demand for food and nutrition

Commentary: Indian news site The Financial Express editorial claims GMOs' "harmful effects" have not been fully examined, and pesticide and fertilizer entering food chain put human health at risk

News: Indian business news site reports cotton native to India has popular resurgence with farmers after Bt cotton has gradually lost resistance to pests

Commentary: Filipino NGO official writes in Daily Inquirer, says farmers call for end to Golden Rice trials, claim it poses threat due to "unpredictable gene mutations," say crop led to animals' organ failures due to "random gene positioning," and pesticides used with it endanger farmers, communities

More Asia items

Europe

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on new Food Law prohibiting advertising of GM foods, imposing sanctions of BGN 2,000 to BGN 4,000 for those sell or produce food or food products in violation of the law, and establishing a National Food Council

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on draft of the country's new Food Law, which prohibits advertisement of GM foods and foods for which there are statutory restrictions on children's use

News release: Italian scientific research organization, Associazione Luca Coscioni, announces GM corn farmer Giorgio Fidenato's legal victory over Gianni Cavallini, who must pay damages for crop destruction, highlights judge's assessment that protesters have demonstrated lack of civility and respect for the law in their opposition

News: Austrian news site reports activists criticize Canada's GE salmon approval; Greenpeace scientist claims GE fish can replace naturally occurring species, activists say no long-term studies exist to demonstrate product's safety

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on concerns that NAFTA renegotiation will lead to entry of

GMOs, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana researcher Rafael Pérez Miranda warned about impact on farmers who save use seeds and argued that allowing seed patents only benefits large companies

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Secretariat of Urban Development and Environment (Seduma) head Eduardo Batllori Sampedro's denunciation of GM soybean cultivation by Mennonite communities in Campeche, as in Quintana Roo, making it difficult to eradicate GMOs from the Yucatan Peninsula

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent statement by SAGARPA's Quintana Roo delegate, Cesar Armando Rosales Cansino, that there is no proof that transgenic seeds have been cultivated in the state, he noted that if Mennonite communities are planting GMOs, they would be doing so illegally

Commentary: ETC's Silvia Ribeiro writes for La Jornada, claims FDA told Impossible Foods it's Impossible Burger does not meet safety standards, but company is selling the vegetable burger anyway; says effects of protein made synthetically are unknown

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Science Media Centre posts responses from New Zealand's political parties to questions on key science-related issues ahead of Sept. 23 general election, including whether nation's moratorium on commercial release of GMOs should be lifted, whether moratorium gives New Zealand competitive advantage

Announcement: Crop Biotech Update reports Australian Office of the Gene Technology Regulator received license application from Syngenta Australia for commercial cultivation of GM cotton variety with insect and antibiotic resistance; Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan to be released for public comment in December 2017

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 23, 2017
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9 01:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

In global biotechnology developments today, anti-GMO activists promoted the launch of a series of online videos that claimed GMOs pose a risk to human health. A report in *The Guardian* highlighted Canada's recent approval of GE salmon, amplifying activist concerns. Commentary on the European Commission's decision to investigate Bayer's purchase of Monsanto also continued.

- Alternative health promoters and anti-biotechnology activists amplified the launch of a new series of anti-GMO videos, titled "GMOs Revealed." In the first installment, the filmmakers interviewed "Food Babe" Vani Hari and the CEO of Thrive Market, as well as an anti-vaccination activist. **See more**.
- Writing in *The Guardian*, New York-based reporter Jessica Glenza amplified activist complaints that GE salmon had been approved without clear GMO labeling. Glenza also profiled the parent company Intrexon, claiming CEO Randal Kirk was critical of claims that the company had not thought through the ramifications of its technology. **See more**.
- SumOfUs executive director Hannah Lownsbrough joined other activist groups such as Food & Water Watch in criticizing Bayer's proposed takeover of Monsanto, claiming that the move could have "disastrous" effects on small farmers. **See more**.
- A Colorado news site criticized Boulder County officials for attempting to steer a government land management contract to the Rodale Institute despite concerns over an insufficient proposal. The article, citing anonymous officials, noted that a new proposal from Colorado State University contained many similarities to a rejected application from the Rodale Institute. **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

Video: Episode 1 of "GMOs Revealed" series released on YouTube, featuring interviews with GMO opponents Zach Bush, Vani Hari and Gunnar Lovelace; host promises health benefits of non-GMO

Commentary: Contributor for The Guardian profiles Randal Kirk of Intrexon, highlighting recent sale of unlabeled GE salmon in Canada, claims genetic modification can change nutritional value of foods as well as behavioral traits of engineered animals

Commentary: Hannah Lownsbrough of SumOfUs writes for The Guardian in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto deal, arguing that it will negatively impact small family farmers and poor consumers, urges EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to consider the "disastrous implications"

News: Colorado news outlet reports on bids to run Boulder County's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Innovation Initiative (SARII) as it transitions away from GM crop cultivation, highlights controversy surrounding Rodale Institute's involvement in the bidding process

News: Organic Authority reports two new studies suggest need to develop sustainable agriculture

worldwide to protect climate, humanity, with paper by Macalester College professor William G. Moseley arguing GMO technology increases costs of food production in developing countries

News: Utah public radio highlights Kevin Folta campaign to improve science communication; Folta says focus should fall on building trust more than delivering a message

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Uganda news site contributor promotes biotech, biosafety bill among solutions to current ag model failing small holder farmers, citing GM seeds ability to address pest, climate issues behind crop losses

News release: Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) announces participation in upcoming African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) meeting, "Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Africa," highlighting Pitch AgriHack competition for youth ag innovation

Commentary: Food Tank posts op-ed by Small Planet Institute member alleging Monsanto official co-author of Malawi seed policy that seeks to apply word only to certified seed from commercial companies, referring to farm-saved seed in policy as "grain," with critics saying policy favors seed companies over farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports USDA representatives, Indian counterparts to meet Aug. 31 in New Delhi to discuss issues including use of technology in farm sector, ways to increase bilateral ag trade; U.S. official says Indian farmers not keeping pace with other countries in adopting biotechnology

Commentary: Bangladeshi farmer tells Cornell Alliance for Science he will not grow conventional brinjal after his positive experience with Bt brinjal, noting Bt variety doesn't require costly pesticides harmful to farmworker health

News: Korean business news outlet reports on Rural Development Administration's announcement of plans to develop technology to genetically assess beef cattle to meet growing demand for different beef cuts, officials argue bodily malformations or other biological issues will not occur as a result of genetic engineering

News: Filipino news outlet reports on recent seminar on Communicating Agri-Innovations thru Social Media in Davao City, organized by Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca), the ISAAA and Department of Agriculture-Davao, with focus on communicating biosecurity, biotech, and ag innovation

News: Vietnam News Agency reports on recent APEC conference where Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Quoc Doanh voiced hope that working groups would use the opportunity to discuss potential cooperation projects, Agricultural Biotechnology Development Forum (HLPDAB) promotes public-private partnerships

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM profiles Intrexon, highlighting developments of several of its subsidiaries including AquaBounty, Oxitec and Okanagan Specialty Fruits

News: Dutch news outlet reports on debate over whether products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR should be regulated as GMOs, highlights EFSA's assessment that there are no additional risks

posed by such techniques, as well as Greenpeace's claims about unintended effects

News: Belgian news source reports new study by international team of researchers suggests delays in acceptance of GMO crops by small farmers in Africa costing money and lives, finds reducing approval period for GMOs could save lives, help achieve UN's Sustainable Development goals, mitigate migration

Interview: Slovakia's Pravda interviews veterinarian who left country, moved to Canada but maintains contact with, advises Slovak dairy farmers; Milos Haas says most Canadians have accepted GMO foods but admits debate continues, studies have shown both drawbacks and benefits of GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on debate over NAFTA renegotiation, highlights call by several peasants, trade unions and organizations for Mexico to guarantee national sovereignty and food security, with exclusion of GMOs and adherence to precautionary principle

News: Mexican news outlet reports on opinions on GMOs by Autonomous University of Coahuila (Uadec) and Autonomous University of Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN) scientists, they argue that one should not label GMOs as completely good or bad, highlighting several health and environmental benefits

News: Peruvian news outlet reports on CropLife Latin America president José Perdomo's recent statements on how small and medium-sized ag operations can increase productivity and profit through use of technology

Commentary: Argentina's Los Andes lifestyle site runs column touting advantages of organic foods over transgenic foods, claiming organic foods have more nutrients, better flavor, cause less pollution by farm chemicals, while arguing transgenic foods cause allergies and damage immune systems of consumers

News: El Colombiano reports Canada becomes first country to allow sales of GM animal for human consumption with AquaBounty's GE salmon offered by retailers, notes protests by Canadian activists who fear GMOs can be harmful, points out transgenic corn and rice eaten by people in Colombia, along with animals fed with GM crops

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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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the European Commission opening a Phase II investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto. U.S. stakeholders continued to respond to recent discussions on the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

- The European Commission announced today that it would open a Phase II investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto, noting that it was concerned about reduced competition in the markets for pesticides and biotech crop traits. **See more**
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) promoted the group's recent report on the renegotiation of NAFTA, arguing for a more transparent process and a focus on smallholder farmers and food sovereignty. **See more**
- French agricultural institutes filed a complaint against the anti-biotechnology activist group Fauchers Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) after the reapers uprooted five sunflower fields late last week. The plant research groups criticized the vandalism, adding that the plants were developed through hybridization and were not genetically modified. **See more**

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North America

News: Reuters reports European Commission has launched in depth investigation into Bayer's planned deal to takeover Monsanto, saying the Commission has concerns about competition in pesticide, seed markets

News: Politico Pro reports on EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager's launch of in-depth probe into Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, citing several competition concerns, noting importance of providing farmers with access to innovative, high quality prices and competitive prices

Report: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy publishes report on NAFTA Renegotiation, identifying benchmarks in collaboration with several other NGOs, calls for rejection of TPP proposals to speed up adoption of new and unregulated ag technologies like GMOs

News: In These Times reports family farm groups in United States, Canada and Mexico criticize secrecy of new talks to renegotiate NAFTA; Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy notes U.S. proposals to eliminate restrictions on trade in GMOs, other ag biotech, Mexican groups want transgenic crops excluded

Commentary: Stephan Neidenbach of We Love GMOs and Vaccines writes for Genetic Literacy Project, explaining his own experience in submitting FOIA requests targeting anti-GMO academics at public institutions, notes his goal is achieving transparency

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on National Agricultural Research Organistation's (NARO) development of several crop varieties, using biotech to make crops more resilient to pests, diseases and drought, and to boost nutrition; farmer Abdallah Drasiku hopes Uganda's biosafety bill will be passed soon

Commentary: Ousmane Badiane of Malabo Montpellier Panel emphasizes necessity of embracing emerging technology, especially biotechnologies, to boost African agriculture and economies

Campaign: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) writes open letter calling for immediate ban on importation of Monsanto's new RNAi maize variety into South Africa, arguing that Africans should not be used as guinea pigs, claiming that the untested gene-silencing effect may be able to cross over into mammals and humans

More Africa items

Asia

News: Asia News Network reports on annual APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology held in Vietnam, which called for promotion of public-private partnerships in ag biotech research, applications and use of ag biotech in response to climate change

News: Reuters reports on farmer Nel Jayaraman's quest to revive traditional rice varieties as drought conditions worsen, highlighting his belief that hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides make farmers more vulnerable to extreme weather, he argues for a return to organic practices

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Commission announces launch of in-depth investigation into proposed acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer, citing concerns that it could reduce competition in pesticides, seed traits; EC to make decision on proposed transaction by Jan. 8

News: Agence France-Presse reports three agricultural technical institutes file complaint following vandalism of experimental sunflower plots by Volunteer Reapers', who claim the plants were herbicide-tolerant GMOs, they condemned the act, and noted no GMOs are grown in France

News: French news outlet reports on Volunteer Reapers' destruction of five sunflower tests pots of Terres Inovia, Arvalis and ITB in action opposing GMOs, Terres Inovia, Arvalis and ITB issued a joint statement condemning the action, and noting that there are no GM crops being grown on their plots

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM examines the open source seed movement, highlighting argument that peasant seeds cannot fully be protected without laws prohibiting patents on living organisms, worries that pending agribusiness mergers will block access to genetic resources

Event: IFOAM EU promotes 11th European Organic Congress set for Sept. 5-7 in Tallinn, Estonia, to look at how stakeholders, policymakers can reach European Organic Vision 2030; NGO working to devise strategies for developing organics in Europe

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: ChileGlobal Biotech amplifies recent statement by University of Chile scientist Claudia Stange, dispelling several myths about GMO safety and presence of GM foods in Chile

News: Argentine news site reports Argentine Seedlings Association official contends Bt protein resistance generated in maize, Bt seeds no longer effective in country; GRAIN member interviewed for

article compares loss of efficacy of Bt maize to spread of weeds resistant to glyphosate

News: Agencia EFE reports on Henoi 2017 seed fair in Paraguay to promote natural cultivation, raise public awareness of different options available instead of GM food; 300 producers of natural crops in Paraguay expected to attend

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE posts paper presented at Home Economics Institute of Australia conference in January 2017, voicing opposition to development of GM super bananas, arguing that non-GMO beta carotene-rich varieties already exist, and claiming GMOs will hurt farmers

Commentary: Australian news outlet contributor examines beneficial applications of CRISPR in medicine and agriculture; says he opposes its use in animal agriculture over concerns that it could increase animal suffering, but hopes that developments like Impossible Burger may eliminate meat from our diets altogether

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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Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 9:02:10 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 events centered on trade issues. Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held a discussion on biotechnology. In India, trade officials previewed trade talks with the U.S., noting implications for agricultural issues.

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Working Group on Biotechnology opened its meeting in Vietnam on Sunday. Organizers highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships and developing climate-resilient crops. **See more**
- Indian news outlets reported that trade officials in the country were conducting informal talks with their U.S. counterparts, anticipating the autumn India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum. U.S. officials warned that India was falling behind competitors such as China in the adoption of agricultural technologies. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Chicago Sun-Times editorial asserts that solar eclipse is a reminder that people can trust science, including on other topics such as safety of genetically modified crops

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Michael Rosch writes to Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in response to recent letter to Ag Secretary Perdue asking for strict GMO labeling requirements, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes GMO labeling is corporate-driven to promote organic food

Commentary: Food & Water Watch argues Bayer-Monsanto merger unites two companies with track records prioritizing profits over public and environmental health; cites Monsanto Roundup lawsuits, Bayer neonics' threat to bees

News: World trade news outlet reports source close to NAFTA talks says US negotiators are seeking provisions to regulate biotech imports

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Harare Institute of Technology biotech department chair Amos Musengi writes for local news outlet, examines debate on GMOs, highlighting numerous benefits and noting that many claims about risks are unsubstantiated, believes biotech can be used in tandem with other agricultural methods

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu previews India-US trade forum expected in October, noting U.S. likely to discuss

concerns on India's challenging IP rights; countries hope to establish agreement that fosters, protects innovation

News: Press Trust of India reports on U.S. embassy official's recent statement that India is not keeping pace with its peers like China in adopting new agricultural technologies, warning that failure to boost crop yields may result in increased agricultural imports, highlights Monsanto's legal battle over seed royalties

News: Indian news outlet reports on collaborative research from scientists at University of Hyderabad (UoH), Canada and China to develop a water-efficient transgenic rice variety, researcher P.B. Kirti highlighted potential use of the gene in other crops to create bigger plants

Commentary: Former professor at National Science Foundation, The Royal Society, Belgium, writes letter to Indian Prime Minister Modi, published by Deccan Chronicle, voicing opposition to GM mustard, highlighting negative economic impact on poor women ag workers, and health risks associated with herbicide use

News: Vietnam News Agency reports on official opening of meetings of APEC Working Group on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) and Technical Cooperation in Agriculture (ATCWG) in Can Tho, highlighting goals of increasing biotech research, especially for sustainable development to help cope with climate change

News: Xinhua reports on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Vietnam, featuring meeting of Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), highlights ATCWG's goal of promoting ag information sharing and cooperation in the region regarding ag technology, and boosting communications and capacity building

Interview: Korean news outlet interviews GMO special committee chairman of Gyeongnam Province, Park Jung-mi, he claims GMOs present several risks to human health, pointing to IARC's review of glyphosate and Seralini's study of impact on GMOs on rats

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news outlet reports anti-GMO activist Gianni Cavallini must pay €5,000 in damages plus legal fees for destroying GM corn crop owned by Giorgio Fidenato

News: Italian news outlet reports a Justice of the Peace ordered Gianni Cavallini to pay €5,000 in compensation plus legal fees for vandalizing Giorgio Fidenato's GM maize crop

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Slow Food blogger highlights the organization's commitment to helping anti-GMO efforts in Bolivia, promotes agroecology and family farming

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Environment Minister Steven Miles' promotion of GM crops to help farmers adapt to climate change, noting they will be among the hardest hit, and emphasizing importance of developing new hybrids and species that can tolerate different levels of heat and rainfall

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 21, 2017
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 5:09:41 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

With the news that streaming video provider Hulu will release the "Food Evolution" documentary next month, American Council on Science and Health president Hank Campbell wondered why competitor Netflix refused to carry the film. It led to an examination of the anti-agriculture documentaries Netflix does offer - including "GMO OMG," "Wheat" and "Cowspiracy." The piece is highlighted below in this week's newsleffer.

Other pieces include potentially promising developments regarding biotechnology regulations in Kenya and Uganda, a study showing no impact on bumblebee colony development from exposure to the neonicotinoid pesticide thiamethoxam and a House of Lords member suggesting Britain should use Brexit to set policy enabling it to become a leader in gene editing.

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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: Center for Food Safety

The Center for Food Safety, led by activist attorney Andy Kimbrell, operates as a litigation arm for the anti-GMO, anti-pesticide and pro-organic movements.

This month, the center announced legal action targeting "shellfish CAFOs" in Washington state, renewed opposition to GM salmon sales in Canada, sought to

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: As Hulu prepares to offer "Food Evolution," Netflix prefers documentaries that are against agriculture and science

David Ropeik: Journalists should be as skeptical of NGOs' biased claims about chemical dangers as they are about corporate interests

Study in Scientific Reports finds no impact from thiamethoxam exposure on bumblebee colony growth and development

Chicago Sun-Times: Eclipse a reminder to trust science - including on safety of genetically modified foods

Gilbert Arap Bor: Kenyan election results raise possibility of access to GM technology for farmers

Ronald Bailey: U.S. FDA should withdraw "scientifically ridiculous" regulation blocking GE salmon

Matt Ridley: Brexit provides Great Britain opportunity to become a leader in gene editing

Isaac Ongu: Ugandan Parliament to resume debate on stalled Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill

block research trials using GM moths in New York and continued false and misleading claims that pesticides are causing a "bee apocalypse" in the United States and Canada.

To learn more about the Center for Food Safety, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Washington beekeeper sees "uneducated" newcomers as one of largest killers of bees

Alison Van Eenennaam: Without concerted effort to defend genetically engineered crops, farmers will have "no technology left"

Interagency government effort in Philippines empowers development of biotech rice, papaya, cotton and eggplant

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What's Trending?

California moves to restrict use of chlorpyrifos, add buffer zones; comment period through Oct. 2

Friends of the Earth plans "week of action" - starting Saturday - aimed at pressuring Kroger into ending sales of food grown with neonics

U.S. government settles high-profile WOTUS wetlands case with California farmer

Sales of genetically engineered salmon in Canada draw protests

Calendar highlights

August 24-26	August 25	September 4-15
French Green Party conference in Dunkirk	Deadline for comments on USDA's 30 questions about GMO labeling process	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included discussions on appropriate uses for gene-editing techniques at CRISPRcon.

- The University of California-Berkeley hosted CRISPRcon, a conference on the future of gene editing. CRISPR pioneer Jennifer Doudna said we should reach global consensus on appropriate uses for gene editing. *Wired* reported the event provided serious discussion on how the technique should be used, and corporate officials said they would avoid mistakes made with GMOs by providing products with consumer benefits. **See more**
- U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, while addressing NAFTA renegotiations, said the U.S. wants to "promote science-based agricultural trade," a veiled reference to biotechnology. *Reuters* reported thousands of Mexican farmers protested the renegotiations and want the deal to exclude anything related to agriculture. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs op-ed by vegan college student saying she sees no contradiction with eating GMO foods, favors biotechnology in agriculture, notes GMO crops can produce omega-3 fatty acids, which could replace fish in people's diets, cites studies that prove biotech crops safe and effective

News: Agricultural news site reports 28 states adopted laws to prevent local governments from passing seed laws, including those that ban GMOs; OSA official calls the laws "a gag on public debate"

News: Organic Authority amplifies reports from The Guardian, The Washington Post about AquaBounty selling GE salmon to retailers in Canada, noting anti-GMO activist's remarks that Canadian consumers are "guinea pigs" because they are eating GMO salmon with no labeling

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health discusses Netflix's refusal to carry pro-science "Food Evolution" documentary, points out home streaming service runs multiple anti-ag food documentaries, includes scientists' reactions to "GMO OMG," other negative food documentaries

Audio: v-Fluence's Food and Ag in 2 on Talk Media News reports BIO voices support for arctic apple with hope it can change public perception of GMOs, Progressive Farmer editor says USDA bee survey shows habitat restoration efforts may have worked

News: Star Press reports on controversy surrounding GE salmon in the US, highlights favorable opinion by Indiana Farm Bureau leader Joe Russell, who stated he would be "honored" to eat the nation's first GE seafood, as well as opposition from environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news site reports activists level corporate abuse accusations during Permanent People´s Tribunal, claim farmers are forced to use GMOs

News: Nigerian news site reports millions of Nigerians still malnourished 2 years after biosafety law is approved, expert says country must promote and support the technology to help hungry people

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports some officials, local citizens express their support for Golden Rice development

Commentary: Bangladeshi farmers group say farmers protested against Golden Rice commercialization in Bangladesh

News: Indian business news site reports native cotton seed is replacing Bt cotton, says the local cotton variety gets better yields and resists pests better than the transgenic variety

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor examines many benefits of Bt corn, with focus on potential export opportunities, highlights data from most recent ISAAA report on global biotech crop adoption

Commentary: Filipino NGO's news outlet promotes action by members of Stop Golden Rice Network to oppose new application for field testing and direct use of Golden Rice in country; activists cite threat to health, seek government resolution to investigate field testing of product

News: Vietnamese news source lists foods it says can cause cancer, including genetically modified food, cites controversy over whether GMO foods increase risk of developing tumors, recommends choosing organic or growing own food to avoid GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech updates report claiming EFSA scientist gave presentation at conference in US stating that glyphosate is not carcinogenic, NGO questions whether Monsanto funded the conference

News: French news outlet reports on sale of GE salmon in Canadian market, highlights concerns of environmentalist Mark Butler regarding potential genetic contamination of wild Atlantic salmon

News: German news outlet reports on debate surrounding regulation of products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, highlighting argument that gene editing is more precise and safer than traditional genetic engineering, highlights gene editing developments by Dow, DuPont and Monsanto

News release: Testbiotech claims Monsanto uses "hidden funding" to influence EFSA scientists' opinions on glyphosate, says scientists "may have" received payments from Monsanto

News: French news site describes Volunteer Reapers raid on GM sunflower field trials to destroy the crops

News: French multilingual radio network reports GE salmon on market in Canada, notes Spanish genetics expert explains there is no risk to consumers, proponents say product will reduce pressure on wild salmon

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports biotech company uses genetic modification to produce crops that use fertilizer more efficiently, reduces amount needed, reduces runoff pollutants

Commentary: Brazilian Federal Senate's TV network broadcasts discussion between officials of Socio-Environmental Institute and National Technical Biosafety Commission about proposal to transfer laboratory analysis on transgenic to final products and eliminate labeling of transgenic products

News: Inter Press Service reports renegotiation of NAFTA reignites debate in Mexico, with small producers' groups demanding exclusion of agreement's agricultural chapter; Trump administration includes biotechnology among its negotiating objectives, which wasn't in original treaty; transgenic crops frighten Mexican producers

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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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 17, 2017
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:01:38 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 coverage of the University of California-Berkeley's CRISPRcon, a conference about the future of gene editing.

- Biotechnology and agriculture news outlets reported on the University of California-Berkeley's CRISPRcon, where experts from a variety of biotechnology fields met to discuss the future of the technology. *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News* magazine quoted a CRISPR inventor on potential ethical concerns, while *Feedstuffs* and *Agri-Pulse* highlighted potential applications in animal agriculture. **See more**
- French news outlets amplified commentary from the anti-biotechnology Faucheurs Volontaires, who held a protest demonstration during a court hearing today where members were accused of vandalizing glyphosate containers. **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: Genetic engineering news site reports CRISPRcon highlights need to debate, decide on regulating CRISPR applications; technology's developer Jennifer Doudna says we can't put off ethical issues, including safeguards against unintended mutations, side effects

News: Feedstuffs reports CRISPRcon brought together experts, scientists to address CRISPR's role in emerging technology for animal and crop health, includes technology developer Jennifer Doudna

News: Bloomberg reports food industry ready to meet FDA's June 2018 deadline for completely removing partially hydrogenated oils from their products; Dupont Pioneer and Monsanto have developed GMO soybean oils being used by some food manufacturers to replace PHOs

Commentary: Agricultural news site Capital Press praises sugar industry's campaign to change people's opinion on GM crops, notes GM crops benefit farmers, are completely safe; beet farmer says industry is losing online debate so "we have to engage"

Commentary: In Forbes, Kavin Senapathy addresses claims Monsanto employees helped write academic papers vindicating Roundup, argues Monsanto should have been more transparent, PR mistakes cast shadow over crucial technology

Commentary: Vascular surgeon, ACSH fellow says Impossible Burger chose greater good of testing SLH over ideology of opposing animal testing, compares it to Golden Rice saving lives versus "ideological purity" of banning the product

More North America items

Africa

Interview: South Africa's Bizcommunity interviews Magda du Toit, corporate engagement and communication manager for Monsanto South Africa, about her career in agriculture; she says she enjoys touting benefits of biotechnology for small- and large-scale farmers, calls it very good for food production

Commentary: Kenyan farmer says elections marked turning point in Kenya, says science and GMO supporters elected, should mean that Kenyan farmers will have access to GM seed soon to help ensure food security

More Africa items

Asia

Report: ISAAA issues review of 17 years of reporting on agri-biotech in Philippines, notes mass media main source of information on biotech in nation, concludes editorial positions of popular newspapers matured over time, predicts social media may amplify, revolutionize future discussion of issues

News: Filipino news source reports Agriculture Department officials say Golden Rice will decrease number of cases of Vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition in next few years, boost resistance of children to micronutrient deficiencies prevalent among poor people with diets based mainly on rice

Commentary: Indian entrepreneur says China's steps in exploring CRISPR, gene editing should encourage other countries to keep pace with competing agriculture, medical, and military programs

News: Indian news site reports countries have differing standards for organic milk, notes India allows milk to be labeled organic if produced by cows that eat GM feed but many disagree with that policy

More Asia items

Europe

News: French newspaper reports anti-glyphosate activists plan demonstrations during court trial for vandalizing cans of glyphosate; notes EU considering re-authorizing herbicide for 10 years

Commentary: The Times runs op-ed by science author Matt Ridley arguing Great Britain could lead world in gene editing, partly because United States often divided over moral and legal issues stemming from matters of biology; he says good regulations, communication with public about GM trials have reduced concerns in Britain

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Low-influence Brazilian ag news source reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves new variety of Bt soybeans for planting, human and animal consumption; GMO grain first product released by CTNBio that resists insects, tolerates glyphosate, two other herbicides

Commentary: Mexican news source's columnist argues "hysteria" of negative claims about GMOs fed by media myths, misconceptions, asserts nearly every crop produced on industrial scale results from some sort of GE, compares anti-GMO claims to those of vaccine opponents, says neither based on science

News: Argentine news site reports Conicet teams use CRISPR gene editing in human and veterinarian medicine, and to make crops resistant to pests, disease, drought

Campaign: Ecuadorian environmental NGO demands country's Ministry of Environment "take all administrative, technical and legal measures to maintain Ecuador free of transgenic crops and seeds"; say National Assembly's approval to allow entry of GM seeds and crops for research violates constitution and is a "serious environmental risk"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Australia's Queensland University announces $13 million grant from CSIRO to fund synthetic biology research

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 16, 2017
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 9 01:11 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 stakeholders' response to the start of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation talks. In Canada, media outlets reported on continued protests against GM salmon's commercial approval.

- Food and agriculture stakeholders responded to the start of renegotiation talks over the NAFTA trade deal. The American Farm Bureau Federation said trade in the region could benefit from rule-making in areas such as biotechnology. Meanwhile, the National Farmers Union and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy - along with Canadian and Mexican farming organizations - warned against allowing the trade deal to increase the movement of genetically modified products across borders. Friends of the Earth also criticized the deal. **See more**
- Canadian activists in Prince Edward Island held an awareness campaign criticizing a planned GE salmon production facility. The protesters warned that the salmon had been sold in Canada without any labels or indication that it was transgenic. **See more**
- The U.S. National Automatic Merchandising Association issued a call to vending machine manufacturers, asking them to respond to a Department of Agriculture request for comments on its GMO labeling proposal. The group called for vending machines to be exempt from requirements to display labels for GM ingredients. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: National Farmers Union issues statement denouncing formal talks to renegotiate NAFTA, claims they are designed to increase agribusiness exports, corporate control over food system, eliminate restrictions on trade in GMOs, other ag biotechnology; Mexican groups demand imports of transgenic crops be excluded

Campaign: National Automatic Merchandising Association provides form letter for its members to use as public comment on USDA's proposed rule for national GMO labeling, which includes possible requirement for vending machines to display labels related to GMO and GE ingredients in products they sell

News: CBC reports on recent public consultation session on food affordability, accessibility, safety and conservation in Charlottetown, some residents seek clear GMO labeling, while others note GMO labels would not change their purchasing habits

News: The Guardian Canada reports on recent anti-GE salmon awareness campaign in Charlottetown, where activists handed out fliers warning residents that GE salmon is available on the market and unlabeled

News: San Diego PBS affiliate reports biologists at University of California-San Diego genetically modifying mosquitoes to fight spread of Zika virus, other insect-borne diseases; new study shows some Americans strongly opposed to releasing GM insects in wild

Commentary: Bloomberg contributor examines ways in which current regulatory systems may become obsolete in the face of new technologies such as gene editing, highlighting recent paper by Dimitri Kusnezov and Wendell Jones arguing that as technologies become more complex, they will be difficult to regulate in a stable way

Commentary: Ag Daily posts op-ed by reproductive biologist Carol Curchoe listing 10 GMOs that benefit human health, animal welfare, citing several under development and debunking persistent myths about GMOs; she credits GMOs with saving U.S. papaya industry from ringspot virus

Commentary: Steven Neidenbach writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines argument that GMOs are unnecessary because we already produce enough food to feed the world, explains ways in which GMOs can help reduce food waste, a big problem in developing nations, notes farmers adopt the technology because of its benefits

More North America items

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on review of New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition which found that Malawi's private sector has lost interest in the project, Malawi Coordinator, Victor Mponda-Banda noted private sector's apathy is likely due to misunderstanding of the concept and slow progress in some policy reforms

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: U.S.-based NGO Global Justice Ecology Project discusses demonstrations by farmers on India's Independence Day to protest farmer suicides, demand complete waiver of loans and increase in crop prices; NGO cites new study suggesting climate change-related droughts increasing rates of farmer suicides

Commentary: BIO amplifies Alliance for Science report about Golden Rice making progress toward reaching marketplace in the Philippines after more than decade of scientific testing, biosafety permit application awaiting approval, notes more than 100 Nobel laureates signed letter in support of the rice in 2016

News: Filipino newspaper reports Joint Department Circular empowering development of biotech crops in Philippines means biotech rice, papaya, cotton, eggplant expected to be fully implemented in farms, most crops already through with field trial stages, should reduce health problems from pesticides, fertilizers

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French news outlet contributor examines debate over GE salmon in Canada, argues consumers are right to be concerned about lack of labeling requirements, worries that CETA agreement may allow its entry into Europe without consumers' knowledge

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves variety of insect-resistant Bt soybeans and three types of herbicides, five other varieties of soybeans, maize and cotton waiting to be released by end of 2017

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Campeche Agrarian Attorney's Office delegation's warning that case regarding Mennonites' illegal planting of GM soy could reach the Agrarian Unitary Court, if it affects

rights of local communities

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns readers about seven transgenic foods consumed in Mexico, highlights links to cancer and effects on reproduction, claims multinational corporations push peasants into unemployment, encourages readers to buy organic, Mexican foods

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on national march against transgenics and agrarian debt, organized by Federation of Agricultural Centers and Peasant Organizations of the Coast (Fecaol), where demonstrators will voice opposition to the Seed Law

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 15, 2017
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 9:04:12 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 Nigerian news outlets reporting on the potential benefits of agricultural technology. GeneWatch U.K. criticized an approved U.S. field trial of GM moths designed to reduce the populations of diamondback moth pests.

- Nigerian news outlets reported on recent stakeholder statements in favor of the country's use of biotechnology. Articles in *Nigerian Tribune* and *Vanguard* emphasized the potential of pod borer-resistant beans, disease-resistant cassava and insect-resistant cotton. A report in *Leadership* emphasized that the technology could be a solution to fall armyworm infestations. **See more**
- European anti-biotechnology group GeneWatch U.K. published commentary criticizing the field trial of a GM moth designed to reduce pest populations. The group claimed that published research on the moths indicates they will cause significant plant damage, making the technology a "failure." **See more**
- Commentary on Canada's decision to approve GE salmon continued, with *Le Monde* reporting on the salmon's sale and amplifying environmental groups' concerns. *CBC* radio interviewed salmon co-inventor Garth Fletcher, as well as the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network's Lucy Sharratt. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: CBC's "The Current" looks at controversy over sales of GM salmon to consumers in Canada and lack of labeling requirement, interviews co-inventor of GM salmon, who defends its safety, and coordinator for Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, who criticizes lack of transparency

Commentary: Cornell University's "Alliance for Science" posts analysis by Ugandan ag journalist reporting nation's parliament will resume debate on stalled Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill in August, will determine whether Ugandan farmers permitted to grow GMO crops; he asserts public awareness, support for biotech growing

News: Florida NPR affiliate reports on University of Miami scientist's examination of public comments in opposition to GE mosquito trials in Key Haven last year; scientists found most opposition stems from mistrust of science and the government, while proponents supported positive impacts on human health

Study: JAMA posts research letter assessing public comments received by FDA on proposed GE mosquito field trial in Florida, researchers said "efforts to understand and respond to public concerns are critical for maintaining public trust in public health activities"

Commentary: Organic Authority claims biotech industry controlling information about GMOs, dictating what journalists report about its products, paying off reporters, academics, scientists to report on GMO food in favorable light, attacking journalists whose articles include criticisms of biotech

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Nigeria Chapter coordinator Dr Rose Gidado's call for adoption of biotech maize to help in fight against fall armyworm invasion, noting Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) variety has proven resistant to the pest

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune contributor examines several ways in which biotech can help reduce import costs, noting Nigeria currently spends N7 trillion annually on food imports, points to climate resilient rice, WEMA corn to help fight fall armyworm pest, pest-resistant cowpea and Bt cotton

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor argues adopting agricultural biotech is essential if Nigeria seeks to improve food security in the face of population growth, notes it is a tool for sustainable ag development, points to successful applications in other nations

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, examines recent PLOS ONE study which found that Uganda's delay in enacting its biosafety bill could have resulted in deaths of over 5,500 Ugandans due to food shortages, puts findings in context with data on stunted child growth due to vitamin A deficiency

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports India's agriculture on cusp of self-sufficiency, with production of food grain increasing five-fold over last 70 years, notes cotton production has more than doubled since 2001 introduction of GM seeds; Economic Survey 2016-17 calls for resolving controversies on GM seeds

News: Mainstream Weekly publishes letter to India's prime minister from members of Sarvodaya movement and Gandhian networks asking him to reject commercial release of GM mustard, arguing GM crops have failed to deliver benefits, asserting transgenic varieties will contaminate all other crops

News: Food Navigator reports on "permanent hiatus" of GM mustard in India, after government reverted to provision that it will only allow production after full scientific evaluation of long-term health and environmental effects, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan pointed to high level of opposition from scientists, farmers and NGOs

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor describes golden rice as "fool's gold in agriculture," claims it will deprive small farmers of using their heirloom seeds, argues alternative methods of combating malnutrition exist, calls for moratorium on expansion of big agribusiness plantations

More Asia items

Europe

News release: GeneWatch U.K. claims Cornell University's plan to release GE moths in upstate New York is bound to fail, pointing to evidence that crop damage will still occur, questioning Oxitec's "Sterile Insect Technique"

News: Hungarian news outlet reports on Scientific Advisory Board of the European Academies' (EASAC) report to provide clarification on gene editing, they call for transparency, and recommend that plant products derived from gene editing not be covered by GMO legislation

News release: The Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification announces eight lines of genetically modified maize found to have negligible environmental risks, no risk inserted sequences of genes can spread to other species, considers environmental risks of maize imports and processing to be negligible

News: Le Monde reports Canadian supermarkets world's first to sell GE salmon as food, Canadian regulators concluded AquaBounty's "AquAdvantage" salmon safe and nutritious as unmodified equivalent; environmental groups denounce lack of labeling, warn of risk to wild populations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina's La Capital reports president of Monsanto Argentina says information management reduces risks in agriculture, with data and drones among new technologies that improve decision making, predicts market will be surprised in coming decades by innovations in genetics, biotech

News: Epoch Times Brazil reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves another type of GM soybean more resistant to insects, tolerant to herbicides; academic says GM soybean reduces, may eliminate use of insecticides, agrochemicals

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Rural Society of Rio Negro's (SRRN) voicing of concerns on biotech approval delays in recent meeting with Ag Ministry, trade union president Rafael Secco noted the technology will benefit the environment by reducing need for pesticide applications

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on recent protest by peasants against recently passed law allowing entry of GMOs for research purposes, they filed a claim of unconstitutionality, claiming GMOs threaten their health, seeds and land

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian Farm Institute executive director Mick Keogh writes for grain industry news site, amplifies several papers in latest edition of Farm Policy Journal providing perspectives on GM crops over the past 20 years, argues GM crops have provided enormous benefits, and that the biggest hindrance is lack of public acceptance

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 14, 2017
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 9:03:34 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Mozambique had harvested a GM maize test crop. A U.S. science agency updated its study on agricultural research.

- A Mozambique news agency reported that the country has harvested its first test plots of genetically modified maize. The field trials were launched in February under the auspices of the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project. **See more**
- The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering updated its website on the new study, "Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research." The updates include an agenda from the Aug. 8 town hall, with an area where the video is expected for publication on Tuesday (Aug. 15). **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: MIT Technology Review reports on Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) project, based at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, seeking to develop food crops with improved photosynthetic capabilities in face of climate change

News release: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers are examining several potential solutions to citrus greening, highlights successful use of CRISPR to create a resistant plant with no foreign DNA, meaning it can be immediately commercialized

News: Bloomberg reports Bill Gates says United States likely to maintain current levels of aid to Africa, despite Trump's proposals to cut funding; speaking in Tanzania, Gates advocates use of GM seeds to improve productivity on African farms, touts need for precise use of fertilizers appropriate for African soils

Interview: The Center for Skeptical Inquiry posts interview with Kevin Folta about his upcoming lecture at CSICon on Oct. 27, titled "Genetic Engineering of Plants and Animals: Hot New Techniques, Same Old Resistance," he says recent breakthroughs in field constitute genetic engineering 2.0

Commentary: Steven Druker writes for Independent Science News, criticizing Royal Society's 2016 report in favor of GMOs, claims it ignores disruptive nature of the GM process, as well as studies demonstrating harm, calls for urgent reforms of Royal Society and other scientific institutions that assert GMO safety

More North America items

Africa

News: Mozambique news outlet reports on harvest of first GM maize field trial in the country as part

of Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, researcher Olga Fafetine highlighted goal of fighting hunger

Announcement: Mozambique government announces harvest of its first GM maize trial plot at Institute for Agrarian Research's Chókwè agrarian station, the first trial tested the insect resistant component, while the second trial later this year will test drought tolerance

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ognu recounts recent visit to Ugandan banana farmer featured in Food Evolution documentary, Frances Nanziri, notes that two years after filming, Nanziri's banana crops are worse off due to banana bacterial wilt, notes anti-GMO sentiment is hindering access to vital technology

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian blogger writes in opposition to GM mustard, claiming government's approval is result of industry lobbying, links herbicides used on GM mustard to cancer

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Rothamsted Research announces receipt of £6.3 million from government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), to launch its new five-year strategic Smart Crop Protection program, which integrates chemical, genetic, biological, ecological, mathematical and agronomic approaches

News: U.K. news outlet reports on attraction of vegan fast food to big investors, highlights Impossible Foods' Impossible Burger and environmental benefits, reports US FDA wants proof through additional testing that the company's GE soy leghemoglobin is safe, Impossible Foods plans to resubmit its petition

News: Serbian news outlet reports on loophole in local law allowing for entry of GMOs in spite of Serbia's ban, illegal GM crops were recently discovered on 10 hectares in Macva and Srem, misdemeanor applications have been filed against the plot owner

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM activist notes President Emmanuel Macron said during campaign he favored banning GMO crops in field, possibly eventually banning them for animal feed, but did not completely rule out research on genetic manipulation; notes politician from Normandy recently spoke in favor of easing ban on neonicotinoids

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on litigation over Yucatan's declaration of GMO-free status; Undersecretary Narváez noted the issue must be decided at the federal level, but that it is not currently on SAGARPA's agenda

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports number of cotton growers in the NSW Riverina will increase by 30 percent this season, after Monsanto's registration of 50-60 new cotton growers for its GM variety

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 14, 2017
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 4 03:22 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Several articles in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter feature the common thread of explaining why biotechnology is a critical tool for sustainable food production. A Canadian chef weighed in last week on the need for GMOs to feed the world, a pair of articles touch on how biotechnology could help prevent crop losses - and, in turn, starvation - in Africa and another explains the potential genetic engineering solutions to protect citrus fruit.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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 Working Group

Environmental Working Group (EWG) is in the news again for its creative advocacy use of government testing databases.

Building ott its success in generating widespread media amplification of its annual "Dirty Dozen" claims, EWG has now launched a campaign alleging

Stories Worth Sharing

Canadian celebrity chef Michael Smith on GMOs: "We need that tool in our tool kit" but transparency should be improved

Jacob Grandstaff: Doomsday claims about bee die-off that prompted EU neonic ban unnecessarily hurt farm production

University of Florida researchers detail three ways GMOs can help fight citrus greening that is causing "serious damage"

"Food Evolution" director: Seeing food shortages in Africa when GM solutions are available was influential moment

Isaac Ongu: Two years later, Ugandan featured in "Food Evolution" still seeking GM technology to rescue banana farm

Nathanael Johnson: Backlash over Impossible Burger's use of genetic engineering should be a "nothingburger"

Angela Logomasini: EPA's pro-science ruling on chlorpyrifos "a victory for public health, consumers' budgets, and struggling farmers"

Karl Haro von Mogel: Citizen science project on GM corn nearing completion, results being prepared for publication

Bloomberg View: Bees doing better despite onslaught of stressors impacting their health

Michigan State University student from Zimbabwe pledges to bring message home about need for access to modern farming technology

contaminants are found in local drinking water supplies across the United States at levels that pose a risk to human health.

To learn more about Environmental Working Group, CLICK HERE.

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee chairman asks National Institutes of Health why glyphosate safety data was not published

University of Guelph-led study claims neonic thiamethoxam impairs egg-laying by queen bees, increasing extinction risk

22 Democratic senators send USDA letter demanding tough GMO labeling standards

Questions raised about role Monsanto's decision to bypass university testing on dicamba played in drift damage issues

Calendar highlights

August 14-17	August 16-17	August 16-17
Southern Africa Permanent Peoples Tribunal against Transnational Corporations	Public rally and anti-glyphosate conference during French trial for "Volunteer Reapers"	CRISPRcon at University of California-Berkeley
August 19	**August 24-26**	**August 25**
National Honey Bee Day (United States)	French Green Party conference in Dunkirk	Deadline for comments on USDA's 30 questions about GMO labeling process

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Date: Sunday, August 13, 2017 9:02:41 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 continuing commentary on GE salmon sales in Canada, food associations warned the USDA not to delay GM food labeling, an Indian think tank survey advocated for GM crops, and the Impossible Foods CEO responded to criticism by saying his company took all necessary precautions and followed regulations in releasing its vegan burger.

Consolidated highlights include:

- *Canadian Press* reported the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and other activist groups objected to sales of unlabeled GE salmon in the country. *Discover* magazine reported activists claim the GE salmon could endanger human health and the environment, but the article noted the farmed GE salmon could benefit over-fished wild salmon. **See more**
- Food trade associations warned the Office of Management and Budget not to delay in establishing food labeling regulations to avoid "regulatory uncertainty." *Politico* reported the Trump administration is holding fewer meetings on GM labeling than the Obama administration, and the current administration is responsible for meeting the July 29, 2018, deadline to establish several benchmarks for the law. *The Hill* reported 22 Democratic senators wrote the USDA urging the agency to enact tough labeling laws. **See more**
- An agricultural task force established by Indian government think tank Niti Aayog strongly recommended that India permit "proven and well-tested GM technologies with adequate safeguards" to increase farmers' productivity. **See more**
- An open letter from Impossible Foods' CEO Pat Brown responded to claims the company skirted food regulations in marketing its synthetic Impossible Burger, which uses an ingredient produced by GM yeast. Brown said company officials worked hand-in-hand with regulators. *Grist's* Nathanael Johnson said not trying new technologies is the riskiest option. The *Organic & Non-GMO Report's* Ken Roseboro said the FDA refused to recognize the product as "safe," and noted David Bronner called the company "unethical." **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: San Francisco Chronicle reports Impossible Foods CEO says environmentalist-driven media coverage of veggie burger misleads public, adds company took every measure it could to ensure safety, follow regulatory processes; Friends of Earth official says regulatory agencies falling behind quickly changing food industry

News: Discover magazine reports activists protest unlabeled GE salmon sales in Canada, claim they endanger wild salmon and human health; writer notes product could be boon to overfished wild salmon

News: CBC reports Council of Canadians calls government's Simplot potato approval "foolhardy;" NGO official says the council will campaign against the product, says it gives area a "poor image"

News: Farms.com reports celebrity chef Michael Smith voices support for GM foods in consultations on A Food Policy for Canada, emphasizing world must be able to produce enough food to feed 10 billion people by year 2050, but Smith suggests Canadian government needs better labeling for GM food

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by Andrew Porterfield rebutting myth that GM bacterium developed in 1990 could have ended all plant life, notes original claim by Green Party member that she co-wrote scientific paper advancing theory proven false, no such paper existed

Commentary: Biology Fortified's Karl Haro von Mogel summarizes process of Citizen Science experiment testing hypothesis that wild animals avoid eating GM corn, highlighting extensive measures to avoid bias, and ensuring transparency in communications with Monsanto, describes final steps of peer review and publication

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor lists several reasons why Nigeria must embrace biotech, highlighting potential applications in agriculture and medicine, and pointing to success of GM cotton in India, amplifies Biocrops Biotechnology Company Limited CEO Joseph Olugbenga Tola Odusanya's support of biotech

Commentary: Madagascar news source contributor dismisses emails from Monsanto papers discussing Seralini retraction as unimportant because Seralini paper was fraudulent on multiple points, primarily erred by using rats predisposed to developing tumors

News: Cornell University's Next Generation Cassava Breeding project publishes first newsletter, says its researchers have explored cassava's genome, proved modern plant breeding methods such as genomic selection can be used for crop, plan to develop high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties

More Africa items

Asia

Letter to the editor: New Delhi resident writes to local news outlet, thanking them for publishing a tribute to Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, but noting it left out a description of his anti-GMO activism, especially against GM mustard

News: Indian business news outlet reports on declining cotton yields due to whitefly and pink bollworm attacks, farmers that have adopted Bt cotton experience sporadic pink bollworm attacks

News: Press Trust of India reports on Supreme Court declaration requiring a 30 day period for objections to be raised should government issue a notification for sale of GM food products, highlights apex court's dismissal of Vandana Shiva's objections to the 2007 notification

More Asia items

Europe

News: Radio France reports Consumers Not Guinea Pigs group files complaint with European Commission demanding products from animals raised on GM feed be labeled

News: Dutch news site reports Wageningen University researchers developed disease-resistant GM potato, but biotech products nearly impossible to market in EU so they work on developing identical potato using slower, conventional breeding

Commentary: Slow Food blogger reiterates objections to CETA trade agreement with Canada, voicing concern about entry of unlabeled GE salmon into Europe following its recent release on the Canadian market

Commentary: GRAIN's Biodiversidad magazine features Biodiversity Alliance collective conversation about experiences working to protect seeds, highlights perspectives of several NGOs including ETC Group and GRAIN, participants speak out against introduction of patented transgenic seeds in Latin America

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Secretary of agri-food and Rural Development, Paulo Bañuelos Rosales' recent statement on importance of maintaining GE-free agriculture in Guanajuato, noting it will benefit exports, as many countries seek high-quality corn from the region

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on release of information on members of National Commission of biotechnology (Conabia), responsible for approving GMOs in Argentina, highlights allegations of conflicts of interest due to members' ties to biotech companies

News: Mexico's Milenio reports breeding work of 1,500 Campeche beekeepers affected by damage to ecosystem blamed on excessive logging, planting of transgenic soybeans by Mennonite groups; Maya communities claim bees poisoned while flying over fields of transgenic soybeans

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on release of GE salmon onto Canadian market, highlights debate over labeling in the US, and concerns from environmental groups about potential escape into the wild, as well as AquaBounty's assurances that they have taken necessary precautionary measures

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor amplifies health expert Alejandra Espinoza's opinion on GMOs, highlighting her claims that they can cause cancer in the long term, claims they negatively impact the environment as well

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Soil & Health Association notes new standards do not contain clause allowing national approval of GE trees; says local district councils retain ability to approve or disapprove GE tree permits

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 controversy over biotechnology in Canada, as well as new activist protests criticizing a U.S. ice cream company.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Canadian media outlets reported on celebrity chef Michael Smith's recent pro-biotechnology statements during consultations for A Food Policy for Canada. During a meeting with food industry representatives, Smith urged acceptance of the technology in order to ensure global food security; Smith encouraged transparent GMO labeling in order to gain consumer trust. **See more**
- U.S. activists with the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) held a series of protests, calling on ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's to use only organic milk in its ice cream; Ben & Jerry's had previously announced that it had converted to non-GMO ingredients. Today's protests followed weeks of campaigning, launched when OCA announced that testing had found traces of glyphosate in many of the company's ice cream flavors. **See more**
- Commentators in Food Tank and *El Financiero* responded to U.S. trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer's mid-June statement that the country would emphasize GM crop acceptance in future economic agreements. Writing in Food Tank, former Center for Food Safety activist Doug Gurian-Sherman called GM crops "unsustainable" and said they had only led to new agricultural problems. An editorial writer with *El Financiero* made similar claims, warning that NAFTA negotiations could imperil Mexico's landrace maize varieties. **See more**

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North America

News: CBC reports celebrity chef Michael Smith speaks out in support of GMOs, noting the debate surrounding them is a first world problem, and arguing that they are a necessary tool to feed 10 billion people by 2050

News release: Organic Consumers Association announces protests against Ben & Jerry's in seven US cities and Mexico City, calling on the company to switch to 100 percent organic milk, claiming use of GM animal feed and contamination with glyphosate contradicts the company's sustainability image

Commentary: Former Center for Food Safety scientist says Trump admin's stance on GM crops not supported by science; says GMOs are unsustainable, negatively impact rural areas' economies, alleges Monsanto uses dicamba drift problem to sell GM seed, claims related pesticide use harms bees

Commentary: Kitchn contributor amplifies recent StarTalk podcast featuring discussion with Neil deGrasse Tyson and Pamela Ronald on GMOs, says humans have been modifying food for thousands of years, and that GMOs are part of a sustainable solution, both voiced concerns about effects of pesticide consumption on humans

Commentary: Tulsa World profiles "Food Evolution" film maker Trace Sheehan, says African nations'

extreme food emergencies convinced him of GMOs' importance

Commentary: Andrew Porterfield writes for Genetic Literacy Project, criticizes Food & Water Watch for touting aqua-farming of pink salmon, considered invasive species in UK, while demonizing GE salmon that cannot escape land-based farms, could not breed

Commentary: Stratfor examines recent market release of AquaBounty's GE salmon in the Canadian market after nearly three decades, highlights regulatory roadblocks in the US, notes the future of GE salmon has implications for GE livestock currently in development, notes policy on manipulated organisms will be crucial

News release: U.S., Argentinian companies announce FDA completes full review of their safety evaluation for soybeans with HB4 stress tolerance trait produced by their joint venture Verdeca, allowing products derived from the beans to be used commercially in food for humans, animal feed

News: Acres USA reports Cornell University to begin open-air trials of GM diamondback moths in Upstate New York, points out moth is scourge of cruciferous crops worldwide, organic farmers in state concerned about possible negative economic impacts from GE version of insect

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: The Detroit News runs op-ed by Michigan State University student from Zimbabwe who hopes her education will help her improve African agriculture, change attitudes in her home country that has blocked imports of GMOs; she points out GMO technology can produce cassava plant resistant to brown streak disease

Interview: The East African talks to former Syngenta executive now serving as manager director of Nairobi-based seed company about firm's plan to tackle food insecurity in Africa; Andy Watt says firm producing seeds in South Africa because it allows GMOs, expresses confidence GMO crops will be approved for use in East Africa

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes discussion document entitled "The Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) Project - Profiteering not Philanthropy!," voices concern that promoting royalty-free drought-tolerant maize crops in African nations will open the doors to other GM events

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity issues alert, warning about applications for permits allowing GM crop varieties developed using RNAi in South Africa and Nigeria

News: Third World Network Biosafety Information Service reports field trials of Bt cotton being conducted in Swaziland despite product's poor performance elsewhere in Africa; variety in field trials makes use of Bt technology previously patented by Monsanto, which targets pests like African bollworm

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news source reports on 2017 International Conference on Biosciences held at Bogor Agricultural University, with theme of "From Genes to Ecosystems," focusing on current trends in research related to biology, including biology of genetics and biotechnology

News: Indian economy news outlet reports on government reticence in approving GM mustard, as it has decided to review all objections brought forward by farmers and scientists, according to environment minister Harsh Vardhan, including potential impact on human health and the environment, as well as yield potential

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Pat Thomas of UK NGO Beyond GM responds to recent documents demonstrating that US FDA has not yet received proof that soy leghemoglobin used in Impossible Burger is safe, argues that processed food is not a viable solution to food security in the face of climate change

Commentary: Inf'OGM notes Nagoya Protocol approaching ratification, offers framework to address liability and compensation caused by LMOs

News: Lithuanian news source reports food inspectors find undeclared GMOs in Ukrainian sweets, which testing found to contain more than 5 percent GM soy; EU law requires labeling if food contains more than 0.9 percent of GMO

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site commentator says US efforts to use NAFTA to require Mexico to accept GM crops would be "disaster" for Mexican agriculture; claims Monsanto cannot demonstrate health, environmental safety, and would put agriculture in hands of 3 corporations

News: Brazilian pork industry publication reports Brazil has second-largest production area of transgenic crops in world, with nearly 50 million hectares of transgenic varieties of soybeans, corn, cotton; industry professionals say challenge now to control resistance in insects, weeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Publisher of Australia's Weekly Times, Ed Gannon, writes in support of using genetic engineering to rid Australia of invasive species such as mice, rabbits and cane toads, believes such applications may help improve public opinion of GMOs

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 ongoing controversy over the sale of a genetically engineered salmon in Canada, and concerns over a public consultation process on GM soy in Mexico.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Canadian media outlets continued to report on activists' concerns about the sale of a genetically engineered salmon in Canada. Outlets such as *The Huffington Post Canada* and *CBC* amplified calls for mandatory GMO labeling from the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network. **See more**
- Canada's Angus Reid Institute issued the results of a new poll, finding that a majority of Canadians favored mandatory GMO labeling but were still uncertain about the definition of a GMO. **See more**
- In Mexico, Mayan communities criticized a public consultation process over the commercialization of GM soy in the Yucatan region. The groups claimed that peasant representatives faced intimidation and threats over their resistance to the crops. **See more**

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North America

News: Canadian media reports on market release of GE salmon, Lucy Sharratt of Canadian Biotechnology Action Network voiced concern about lack of mandatory labeling, as AquaBounty has not disclosed where the fillets were sold and for what purpose

News release: Canadian public opinion research organization says new poll shows fewer than 40 percent of Canadians believe it's safe to eat GM foods, more than 80 percent say at least some GMOs should be subject to mandatory labeling, even though majority unclear on definition of GMOs

News: Canadian media outlets reported on new public opinion research poll showing most Canadians unclear on definition of GMOs but still want mandatory labeling; poll from Angus Reid Institute also shows avoiding GMOs not top priority for most Canadians when grocery shopping

News: Bloc Quebecois leader and MP in National Assembly, Martine Ouellet, reiterated the Bloc's position in favor of mandatory GMO labeling, following arrival of GE salmon on the market, she noted that once Quebec gains independence, it can require GMO labeling to "control what is on our plates"

Audio: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine and Ecomodernist Podcast's Rick Maltese interview Food Evolution documentary director Scott Hamilton Kennedy, joined by scientists Kevin Folta and Alison van Eenennaam, with focus on "confirmation bias"

News: Los Angeles Times reports environmental, consumer advocacy groups calling on Impossible Foods to pull its plant-based burger from market until it can prove GE ingredient that gives patty beef-like quality safe to eat; activists say FDA documents show regulators have yet to deem special

ingredient fit for consumption

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ghanaian news outlet contributor examines media scrutiny of Ag Minister Owusu Afriyie Akoto's statement that the fight against fall armyworm is won, in spite of evidence of continued devastation, highlights opposition to his appointment based on his favorable position on GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: ISAAA's Crop Biotech Update reports Bureau of Plant Industry in Philippines accepting public comments for 60 days on proposal for direct use of Golden Rice as food and feed, or for processing

Commentary: Vandana Shiva op-ed in Deccan Chronicle claims the "fraud and corruption we have witnessed in Bt cotton at high costs to farmers and the environment are now being repeated with GMO mustard;" Shiva reviews Monsanto's history in India and concludes crop must not be approved

Video: Official Channel of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha TV, examines unaddressed concerns about GM mustard, in context of Supreme Court order

News: BioVoice reports on letter from India's Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG) to Prime Minister Modi in support of GM mustard, in response to letter from 34 medical experts against the technology, ABLE-AG accused anti-GMO activists of fear mongering, calling them "anti-national"

News: The Hindu reports cotton crop in parts of three Indian states attacked by pink bollworm, appears to be erosion of resistance to pest in some transgenic varieties, seed firms directed to pay compensation to farmers in Maharashtra; government officials claim pest can be contained with chemical treatment

Commentary: Korean news outlet contributor voices concern about health risks of GM corn and loopholes in national labeling laws, calls on government to tighten the Food Sanitation Act

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture announces recent statement by National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre (NARIC) director-general, Csaba Gyuricza, at the China-Europe Soya Symposium in Pekin, Gyuricza encouraged research collaboration to boost non-GM soy production

Commentary: Italian news magazine column describes how genetic engineering can create virus resistant plants, lauds technology for also reducing losses, simplifying cultivation and reducing pesticide use; importance of Hawaiian GM papaya and future virus resistant GM plants under development cited

Commentary: French NGO posts letter from member of Volunteer Reapers critical of fundraising by the activist group's leaders, saying "the search for money has become an end in itself...volunteer GMO reapers have become a marketing product...we have become the workers of a biobusiness, unrelated to organic farming;" letter further criticizes nighttime destruction of GM crops

News: Turkish news outlet reports on Former Chairman of the Biosafety Council, Dr. Hakan Yardimci's description of rigorous risk assessment process needed for GMO approvals, following Turkey's recent approval of new GM soy and corn varieties for feed use, he highlighted the potential of the technology

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mayan communities' complaint to National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), denouncing "climate of harassment" and "division strategy" employed in consultation process on GM soy cultivation

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent statement by Mayan communities denouncing "intimidation, threats and defamation of community leaders and advisors" in the consultation process of planting GMOs in Campeche, arguing that federal authorities only want to protect interests of companies like Monsanto

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on bill introduced by MP Luzia de Paula to ban GMOs in school meals, with goal of protecting health and encouraging purchase of organic food, Secretary of Education noted implementation of such a ban would be difficult, as most soy and corn produced in Brazil is transgenic

News: Brazilian ag news outlet reports on Embrapa Soja researcher Alexandre Nepomuceno's recent presentation on CRISPR at 20th Brazilian Congress of Seed Technology, noting reduced production costs will allow more players in the market, called on Brazil and China to decide whether to regulate the technology like GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9 00:44 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 new advocacy around the potential release of Golden Rice. Activists also criticized a U.S. food company producing meatless hamburgers, rejecting its claims of ingredient safety.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Scientists and science advocates called for supporters to submit comments on Golden Rice's biosafety application, noting that the crop was being reviewed by regulators in the Philippines and in Australia. The Stop Golden Rice! Network announced that it had helped coordinate protests outside the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute. It highlighted criticism of Golden Rice from NGOs in Indonesia and the Philippines, and pointed to the network's success in delaying the commercialization of Golden Rice. The Philippines National Anti-Poverty Commission announced a roundtable discussion on Golden Rice, scheduled for Aug. 11; however, additional meeting details were limited. **See more**
- *The New York Times* reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had questioned the safety of a genetically engineered soy product in communications with the developer, Impossible Foods; the communications were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act filed by the ETC Group. The company uses the soy product in so-called meatless hamburgers. Friends of the Earth and ETC Group issued a joint press release, calling for the company to pull the burgers from the market. Impossible Foods reaffirmed the safety of its food, noting the results of its animal feeding studies. **See more**
- Canadian activist groups continued to criticize the commercial release of AquaBounty's genetically engineered salmon, calling on state and federal governments to label the fish and urging their supporters to pressure grocers not to sell it. **See more**

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North America

News: New York Times reports on controversy surrounding Impossible Burger's "Secret Sauce" made from soy leghemoglobin; documents released from ETC Group FOIA request show FDA is not satisfied with Impossible Burger's safety assessment, the company says goal is transparency

Press release: Impossible Foods reaffirms safety of key ingredient in synthetic burger's key ingredients, highlights rat feeding study which found no harmful effects

News release: Friends of the Earth responds to documents released from FOIA request which reveal that FDA believes information provided by Impossible Burger is insufficient for it to grant general recognition of safety, criticizing the company for putting the product on the market

News: The Washington Post reports environmental groups oppose USDA proposal to lift restrictions on commercial production of freeze-tolerant GE eucalyptus trees, citing concerns about negative effects on environment; draft environmental impact statement concluded trees pose few environmental risks

Commentary: Food Drive posts op-ed by former Grocery Manufacturers Association executive discussing Trump administration's attempts to deregulate food and ag sectors, arguing food companies need to choose whether regulatory philosophy on GMO labeling or consumer trust more important factor

News: Food & Wine reports astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson discusses GMOs on his "StarTalk" podcast, explains why GMO is misleading term; Tyson asserts humans have modified organisms since agriculture began, with seeds for all food crops modified through selective breeding, crossing strains

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Alternative Information & Development Centre promotes upcoming Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Transnational Corporations from August 14-17, hosted by Southern African Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, with theme of land, food and agriculture

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Blogger for Cornell Alliance for Science highlights progress towards bringing golden rice to market in the Philippines, following application submitted by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) for a biosafety permit, highlights opposition from anti-GMO groups

Commentary: Shivani Shah of Greenpeace India writes for local news outlet, reiterating opposition to GM mustard, promotes agroecological systems to boost production and decrease water use, argues that GM mustard is not the solution to India's oilseed problems

Commentary: Financial Express writer recalls meeting with the late Pushpa Bhargava, founder of India's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology who admittedly never formally studied biology, cited "principle" in opposing Bt cotton, genetic modification of crops

More Asia items

Europe

News: German medical news outlet reports on ETH Zurich Researchers' breakthrough development of method to combine several essential micronutrients, iron, zinc and beta-carotene, into one rice plant, scientist Navreet Bhullar hopes the new variety will begin field trials next year

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Columnist for Argentine NGO ECOS Córdoba reflects on one year anniversary of Monsanto's withdrawal from its Malvinas Argentinas seed factory, says it was "not the beginning or the end" but part of ongoing fight against agro-business

Commentary: Brazilian news site contributor reports Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) is targeting conflicts of interest involving members of National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio); claims CTNBio "approved and continue to approve GMOs despite the insufficiency and shortcomings of scientific research", cites "irregularities" in approval of GM sugar cane

Commentary: Campaign spokesperson for 'I Do not Want Transgenics in Chile' writes for local news outlet, highlights campaign efforts by Pesticide Action Network to promote agroecology, and goal of forcing government to require labeling of GM foods

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on Australian Grains Industry Conference, where chief executive of grain breeder AGT promoted end point royalty system as a driver for research and development in grain breeding; highlighting success with wheat, he also discussed questions surrounding gene editing regulations

Campaign: Cornell Alliance for Science urges followers to submit comments in support of International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) requests for biosafety permit to allow use of golden rice in food, feed and processing in the Philippines and for inclusion of golden rice in the the Food Standards Australia New Zealand code

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 7, 2017
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 9 05:06 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 new activist campaigns calling for stricter regulation on field trials and new plant breeding techniques.

- Beyond Pesticides launched a new campaign protesting a proposed field trial of genetically engineered moths that would reduce wild pest populations. The group urged supporters to write to New York's Department of Environmental Conservation and warn that the proposed test is being held despite incomplete environmental assessments and could put organic farming operations at risk of losing their certification. **See more**.
- Friends of the Earth Australia issued a statement today outlining potential concerns with Australia's review of its National Gene Technology Scheme. The group asked supporters to create submissions on the review and offered a list of potential concerns to raise in their communications. The list included demands for regulating new plant breeding techniques and reinforcing the rights of states to ban GM crop cultivation, as well as statements on the need for GMO labeling and for maintaining the current safety assessment process. **See more**.
- *Kenya News Agency* reported that the country's Horticultural Research Institute would soon release a Bt cotton variety as part of a pilot project to reduce costs for small farmers. **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

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to take action to tell Cornell University, New York Department of Conservation and New York Governor Cuomo to stop planned release of GM moths intended to control the pest in cabbage, claims release may cause de-certification of nearby organic farms

Commentary: Jan Nyrop of New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Tony Shelton of Cornell University write for upstate New York news outlet in support of GM moth field trials, explaining that there is negligible environmental risk, and inviting readers to a public forum on Aug. 9

Video: Science in Real Life video explores genetic modification, walking through the process of creating a GM tomato plant in a Cornell lab, Cornell professor Joyce Van Eck explains the process, how GMOs can help solve several agricultural problems, and why GMOs are perfectly safe to eat

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Canadian environmentalists' outcry over recent commercial release of GE salmon, they denounced the lack of mandatory labeling and called for boycott, highlights opposition from Vigilance OGM, Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and Ecology Action Center

Report: Alison Van Eenennaam co-authors report for Journal of Animal Science, summarizes available scientific literature on the detection of dietary DNA, protein and glyphosate in animal products, finds that products from animals that have consumed GE feed do not pose novel health risks

Commentary: Food and agricultural economist Jayson Lusk examines how state votes on GMO labeling

changed consumer concern about GMOs, finds evidence that while state GMO labeling initiatives did increase awareness about GMOs, they did not significantly increase public concern

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya News Agency reports GM drought tolerant Bt cotton variety will soon be released to Kenyan farmers, Cabinet secretary Willy Bett highlighted financial benefit of reduced need to spray pesticides

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity blogger recounts recent event co-organized with National Farmers' Union of Mozambique (UNAC) and its provincial affiliate in Manica (UCAMA), where smallholders expressed need for access to a diverse range of quality seeds, but not exclusively from the private sector

Commentary: South African news outlet editorial warns readers that they may be eating GMOs without their knowledge, claims GMOs and glyphosate pose serious health risks, amplifies concerns about GMOs by Jonathan Latham and African Centre for Biodiversity

More Africa items

Asia

News: Business Standard reports inauguration of National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing Campus in Punjab; Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, urges scientists to create nutritional revolution

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor warns about negative impact of industrial agriculture on human health and the environment, claims GMOs are toxic due to treatment with glyphosate, highlighting IARC's review, promotes organic ag as an alternative

More Asia items

Europe

News: Sciences et Avenir reports AquaBounty sells first GE salmon in Canada; company argues production of transgenic salmon won't affect environment, production in large quantities of fish that is much in demand will relieve pressure on wild populations

Announcement: European Food Safety Authority's risk assessment of new sequencing information on GM soybean event 305423 finds that studies performed for risk assessment of the single event soybean 305423 and the two-event stack soybean 305423 × 40-3-2 remain valid, and that new sequencing data do not indicate any safety issues

Commentary: Italian organic and peasant farming NGO CampiAperti voices opposition to products of new breeding techniques, claims it will be a further step towards granting more patents to multinational seed companies

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Chilean news outlet reports on recent seminar entitled "Latin America and China: the future of food security," organized by Syngenta, general director of Syngenta for Latin America South, Antonio Aracre noted acquisition by ChemChina will help the company maintain competitiveness against Bayer/Monsanto

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia urges supporters to submit comments regarding Government's National Gene Technology plan, voicing opposition to lack of regulation for products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, measures preventing GM crop bans and GMO labeling, and contamination of organics

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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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 7, 2017
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:50:19 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Later this week, activists with the Organic Consumers Association will stage protests at Ben & Jerry's stores in the United States and Mexico in a bid to force the ice cream maker to go fully organic. In the eyes of Alex Berezow of the American Council on Science and Health, it's part of an effort to blackmail - or, as he says, "greenmail" - the company.

The article is listed below as part of this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, along with a piece from David Zaruk's "The Risk-Monger" blog more broadly examining the fear-mongering approach of organic industry marketing efforts.

There are also pieces looking at new U.S. statistics on the bee population, the debate over glyphosate use in Sri Lanka and GM mustard in India, along with a look back at a recent biotechnology communications symposium in Uganda.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on Bonus Eventus Community page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Bioscience Resource Project

Jonathan Latham's Bioscience Resource Project, in collaboration with the

Stories Worth Sharing

Alex Berezow: Organic activists trying to "greenmail" Ben & Jerry's with glyphosate campaign

Angela Logomasini: New USDA stats latest evidence Greenpeace, other activists are wrong about bee health issues

Andrew Porterfield: Cheerios, Grape Nuts cereals among foods that contain less vitamins after non-GMO switch

David Zaruk: Is there anything more to organic food than "slick marketing tricks?"

Joan Conrow: New study quantifies loss of human life, money from African nations delaying GM crop approvals

Steve Milloy: Analysis claiming to show sperm count decline is flawed, shows no link to chemicals

Kavin Senapathy: Widely accepted seedless watermelon not considered to be a GMO despite use of mutagenic chemical

C. Deepal Mathew: Sri Lanka glyphosate ban would cause more labor, use of alternatives that would harm the environment

Center for Media and Democracy, recently released so-called "Poison Papers" alleging widespread conspiracies between the chemical industry and government regulators to keep chemicals and pesticides on the market that pose alleged risks to human health and the environment.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Latham and the Bioscience Resource Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jill Kuehnert: Uganda symposium reinforced need for new tools to communicate about safety and benefits of GMOs

Shanthu Shantharam: Indian government must stand up to anti-GMO activists blocking nation's agricultural progress

"Food Evolution" director says documentary has people changing their minds about GMOs Interview part 2

Pennsylvania newspaper details effort to bring back American chestnut tree using genetic engineering

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

New batch of "Monsanto Papers" raises further allegations of undue influence on media and scientific research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts largest ever "dead zone" in Gulf of Mexico

Canada approves import of Simplot GM potato varieties, opening door for potential trade with U.S.

USDA bee stats show slight increase in bee population over past year, with 27 percent drop in colony collapse disorder cases

Environmental Working Group releases database raising concern about pesticides, other pollutants in U.S. tap water

Calendar highlights

August 7	August 10	August 12
"Food Evolution" screening at National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Organic Consumers Association glyphosate protests against Ben & Jerry's in six U.S. cities	Final public hearing on South Africa Plaint Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement bills

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 4-6, 2017
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2017 9 04:08 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a call from the Organic Consumers Association for participants to protest against Ben & Jerry's. A news site reported Brazilian farmers pay higher royalty rates on GM soy than Argentine farmers. Food Standards Australia New Zealand called for submissions on an International Rice Research Institute application related to Golden Rice.

- The Organic Consumers Association is seeking participants to protest against Ben & Jerry's in seven U.S. cities and Mexico City on Thursday (Aug. 10). The protests are intended to pressure the company into going 100 percent organic. **See more.**
- Brazilian news site *Canal Rural* reported that Brazilian producers are paying more for Monsanto's Intacta seeds than producers in neighboring Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine news site *La Nacion* reported that the government's system of collecting royalties, instituted last year, has more than doubled the collection rate on Intacta soy. **See more.**
- FSANZ called for submissions on IRRI's application to approve Golden Rice in its code. The move is intended to prevent trade issues should small amounts of Golden Rice end up in other rice shipments. The FSANZ safety assessment determined the GM crop presents no health or safety concerns. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Associated Press primer on gene editing explains safety is a key question, reviews ethics debate; notes researchers using gene editing to improve crop growth

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association newsletter seeks participants for NGO's #DumpBenandJerrys press events, protests (Aug. 10) in seven U.S. cities, Mexico City; claims company's refusal to go organic pollutes waters with fertilizers, pesticides used to grow GM corn to feed cows

News: Washington Post reports commercial roll out of GE salmon in the US is held up due to complicated regulatory structure and controversy over labeling, Canadians have already consumed five tons

News: The Canadian Press reports Canada endorses Simplot potato varieties designed to withstand pathogen that caused Irish famine; notes while authorities say the modified crops are safe for human consumption and environment, "changing the genetic code of an existing food remains an ethical issue for some companies"

Commentary: Andrew Porterfield of Genetic Literacy Project points to several examples of organic, non-GMO products containing fewer vitamins and nutrients than their conventional counterparts, explains how vitamins and nutrients are frequently derived from GM crops

News: Toronto Star reports on several Canadians that have changed their minds on controversial issues such as GMOs, highlights Ottawa resident Rachel Gouin's experience working for an anti-GMO organization, she changed her mind on the subject after having a conversation with a scientist

More North America items

Africa

Campaign: World Federation of Trade Unions releases its conference declaration promoting planned counter-offensive against capitalists, multinationals, monopolies in Africa, calls for end to GMO cultivation

News: Agricultural economist writes in Huffington Post about recent USDA data projecting shrinkage in demand for maize imports in South Africa region due to expected record harvests; Zambia and Malawi projected to be net exporters, Zimbabwe self-sufficient

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Atlantic reports researchers look to make wheat resistant to wheat blast, are hesitant to use genetic modification due to consumers' GMO concerns, note that CRISPR, other gene editing methods have potential and are not regulated in US

News: Indian news outlet reports on letter from Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG) to Prime Minister Modi in support of GM mustard, accusing anti-GMO activists of being "anti-national" and fear mongering

Announcement: Malaysian National Biosafety Board announces decision granting approval for import of an herbicide tolerant GM corn variety by Syngenta for use in food, feed and processing, following Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) determination that it does not threaten human health or the environment

Announcement: Malaysian National Biosafety Board announces decision granting approval for import of a high oleic fatty acid GM soybean variety by DuPont for use in food, feed and processing, following Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) determination that it does not threaten human health or the environment

News: China news agency reports geneticist applies for retraction of paper published last year on new gene editing technology that could be an alternative to CRISPR after other scientists claimed they have been unable to reproduce results, authors plan to analyze why results not produced

Commentary: Italian news site piece by Navdanya International director raises concerns about GM mustard, claiming it would threaten farmers' livelihoods, pose risks to bees; argues fight in India is crucial for global war on GMOs, country needs democratic debate on food systems to protect environment and people's health

More Asia items

Europe

News: Global Meat News reports Russian sanitary inspection office plans to improve control over GMOs in domestic food and feed market; head of trade house RusAgro says situation with GMOs has driven up feed prices, putting pressure on meat producers, reducing their competitiveness; new system will launch by 2018 to speed up GMO testing

Commentary: German anti-GM NGO Testbiotech takes issue with CDU/CSU parliamentary group's stance to exclude gene editing from regular biotech crop testing approvals; says Testbiotech supporters have sent almost 10,000 emails to German politicians

Interview: Turkish news site talks to former Chairman of Biosafety Council Dr. Hakan Yardimci about country's recent decision to allow three GM soy varieties and one GM corn variety for animal feed; Yardimci says farmers around world have widely adopted GM crops, urges Turkey invest in biotechnology research

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site reports Mayan community accuses government of threatening and intimidating indigenous leaders in effort to get them to allow GM soy crop cultivation

News: Brazilian rural news site reports Brazilian producers pay for more for Intacta GM soy technology than their Argentine or Paraguayan neighbors, pointing out Argentina's legislation does not require royalties for saved seeds; Brazilian soy producers calling for similar legislative change to even playing field

News: Argentine news site reports on government's control system for Intacta soy royalties; Monsanto Argentina president says there is a "very important change in producer's willingness to pay", with levels above 80% compared to 40% when system began

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributors profile efforts by Vandana Shiva and Navdanya to preserve seed biodiversity, highlights her claims that Green Revolution technologies, including pesticides and controlled seeds, are responsible for declining biodiversity and loss of traditional seed varieties

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Food Standards Australia New Zealand issues call for submissions, through September 14, on International Rice Research Institute's application to include vitamin-A rich Golden Rice in the Code, with goal of preventing any trade issues in event that small amounts inadvertently end up in shipments of other rice

News: Agrow reports Food Standards Australia New Zealand proposes approval of imports of GM Golden Rice

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on agricultural policies of various political parties ahead of upcoming election, Northland MP NZ First leader Winston Peters noted NZ First will not support GM crop field trials, GE plants proven safe under controlled conditions may be permitted for proliferation in certain circumstances

Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand highlights Golden Rice application from IRRI based on trade issues, closing date for submissions Sept. 14; notes assessment determines no health and safety issues relating to this rice

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 9 01:07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Brazil delayed a vote to reform its labeling requirements for GM ingredients in food and new GM crop approvals by Canadian regulators.

- Brazil's Senate announced that an agricultural committee vote to revise the country's GMO labeling law had been delayed. The measure, if approved, would allow higher tolerances of GM ingredients before requiring a label. The news release noted that Sen. Regina Sousa warned of potential health risks from foods with transgenic ingredients. **See more**
- Canadian regulators gave approval for J.R. Simplot to market and import three potato varieties genetically modified to resist late blight. The move opens up trade with the U.S., where the potatoes have been approved since February. **See more**
- The U.S. Organic Trade Association (OTA) promoted a new federal government report, "Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities," highlighting a chapter on how organic agriculture can improve economic conditions in rural counties. An OTA spokesperson claimed organic agriculture also has well-known health and environmental benefits. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Associated Press reports that Canada has approved three cisgenic potatoes developed by J. R. Simplot, enabling trade across U.S. and Canadian borders

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes in honor of National Watermelon Day, points out paradox in worry about agricultural chemicals and GMOs, while seedless watermelons, not considered to be GMOs, are created using mutagenic chemicals to prevent seed production

Commentary: Vermont dairy farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, criticizing Ben & Jerry's continued rejection of GMOs in its response to claims about glyphosate residues in its ice cream, notes both GMOs and glyphosate are perfectly safe, highlights importance of GM animal feed on her farm

News: Capital Press reports two U.S. sugar companies to launch $4M online campaign to educate consumers, change perceptions about GMOs; Idaho sugar beet farmer says campaign will highlight GMOs' lower use of pesticides

Report: Duke Initiative for Science & Society breaks down GE Salmon Labeling Act, noting it requires GE salmon be labeled as 'Genetically Engineered' or 'GE,' and that HHS verify environmental assessments conducted by the FDA on GE fish

News release: Organic Trade Association welcomes recent publication by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors, with a chapter highlighting economic benefits of organic agriculture

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Progressive Farmer reports on National Grain and Feed Association and North American Export Grain Association's recent statement on performance of free trade agreements, calling for consistent approach for managing low-level presence of US biotech products not yet approved for import

Commentary: ISAAA reports key stakeholders in the province of Pangasinan, Philippines sign declaration of support for the commercialization of Bt eggplant during a seminar involving those involved with Bangladesh's Bt brinjal

Commentary: Shanthu Shantharam of Iowa State University writes for Indian magazine, calls on Indian government to stand up to anti-GMO activists, noting opposition to biotech crops hinders agricultural growth, explains genetic modification process, affirms that GMOs are safe

News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports the country is ranked seventh out of 26 countries growing biotech crops, according to ISAAA's most recent global biotech adoption report, with over 97 percent adoption of insect resistant cotton, stakeholders are now looking towards economic benefits of biotech maize

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: The Greens/European Free Alliance challenges Science Advice Mechanism report conclusions on NBTs, arguing unintended mutations are common in all forms of genetic modification, urges precautionary approach to NBT regulation

Report: Report in Common Market Law Review examines issues of agricultural sustainability, biodiversity, and patents in EU GMO regulations, argues legal enclosure could justify imposing restrictions on GM cultivation in order to conserve agrobiodiversity

Interview: Five Star Movement Sen. Elena Fattori tells Italian news site she and her party have doubts on GMOs, skeptical over Agriculture Ministry's plan to fund NBT research because they are unsure how the products will be regulated

Commentary: Turkish news site claims GM foods cause a variety of health problems, especially for pregnant women; claims insects gain immunity to pesticides used with or in GM crops

News: Dairy Reporter reports on Arla Foods Ingredients' launch of "Pure Dairy" campaign as part of clean-label trend, promoting its Nutrilac ingredients made from whey protein extracted from milk produced by grass-fed cows, free from hormones and antibiotics, highlights EU consumers' aversion to GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces vote delayed on bill changing GM labeling rule; notes proposal easing restrictions on GM labeling was rejected by science and technology commission, senator claims GM products can harm health

News: Brazil Soy Project reports Brazil soy farmers pay up to 150 percent more royalties than Argentine soy farmers for Monsanto's Intacta GM soy; Monsanto official says comparison is unfair, does not take business models, form of collection into account

Commentary: Agrow article focuses on how Brazil is driving GMO adoption in Latin America

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: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 9:00:31 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 additional activism objecting to Bayer's purchase of Monsanto and new developments in Kenya's efforts to field trial beneficial GM crop traits.

- Food & Water Watch issued a statement today announcing that it had issued another letter to the U.S. Department of Justice asking it to oppose Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. The NGO warned that the merger would substantially reduce competition in the vegetable seed market. Today's letter was signed by 23 additional farm groups; three groups signed its July 26 letter. **See more**
- Kenya's *Business Daily* reported that the country's National Biosafety Authority "defied" the minister of agriculture by announcing new GM maize and cotton field trials. The trials, scheduled for October, will be run by Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (Kalro) and African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF). **See more**
- Writing in the *The Guardian*, an activist with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) highlighted confirmation that the federal government would require an additional environmental safety assessment before AquaBounty could cultivate GM salmon at its Prince Edward Island facility. The statement followed weeks of campaigning by CBAN against the facility. **See more**.

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North America

News release: Farm, consumer group coalition sends letter urging DOJ to block Bayer-Monsanto merger warning move will further concentrate, privatize vegetable genetics, reduce availability of produce with little, no pesticides

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger amplifies study quantifying the costs of biotech approval delays in Africa, notes toll in human lives

Commentary: Guardian publishes piece by Canadian Biotechnology Action Network head claiming AquaBounty has avoided full scientific assessment of the environmental risks of GM salmon production

News: Food Dive reports Dannon officials say non-GMO Project label is added value targeted at shoppers for whom non-GMO is a priority

News: The AP reports study findings published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggest farmer suicides are on the rise in India as climate change exacerbates drought and reduces annual incomes

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports National Biosafety Authority (NBA) announces field trials for GM maize and cotton will begin in October, defying Health Ministry decision to halt trials, NBA managing director Willy Tonui noted they have all guidelines required for release of biotech maize for field trials

News: South Africa's Farmer's Weekly reports on approval of first GM sugarcane in Brazil resistant to sugarcane borer; principal scientist with South African Sugarcane Research Institute says they are also conducting GM research to combat stalk borer, which if successful, "could be our first proudly South African GM crop"

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Jumanne Maghembe's call for acceleration of GM crop adoption, highlighting importance for boosting productivity and eliminating poverty

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on the country's shift back to conventional cotton, due to complaints about poor fiber quality in Monsanto's Bt variety, Interprofessional Association of Cotton Burkina Faso (AICB) Information Secretary Ali Compaoré noted the technology was not the issue, expressing openness to trying different GM varieties

More Africa items

Asia

News: India-based Moneycontrol reports NITI Aayog think tank vice chairman resigns, notes RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jangran Manch heavily criticized the organization after it endorsed GM mustard

News: Indian Express reports on death of scientist and anti-GMO activist Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, highlights anti-GMO movement's reliance on his scientific evidence in its opposition to Bt eggplant and GM mustard

Commentary: Shivani Shah of Greenpeace India writes for local news outlet, acknowledges importance of self-sufficiency in oil production, lists several alternative strategies to GM mustard, claims GM mustard is unnecessary and does not live up to promises of yield advantages

News: Indian news outlet reports on Central Government's statement to Supreme Court that it will not make its decision on commercialization of GM mustard until September, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) begins deliberating on a GMO labeling mandate

Campaign: A group of Indian economists write to Prime Minister Modi, urging him to support commercialization of GM mustard, noting it has undergone sufficient environmental and food safety assessments, and that foregoing yield increases is extremely costly, especially to the poor

News: Chinese news outlet reports on former CCTV anchor and anti-GMO activist Cui Yongyuan's recent interview, where he noted that he constantly receives death threats, Cui claims lobbyists once offered him millions to stop protesting GMOs, highlights controversy over his high-priced non-GMO store

More Asia items

Europe

News: Turkish news outlet reports on Biosafety Board's approval of three GM soy varieties and one GM corn variety for use in animal feed, following reports by Scientific Risk Assessment Committee and Social-Economic Evaluation Committee

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Weekly Times editorial promotes potential of CRISPR-Cas9 technology to eradicate mice without chemicals, stop mosquitoes from transmitting diseases to humans; urges open mind on genetic manipulation technologies

Commentary: Executive director of Gene Ethics for a GM-Free Australia calls for tougher laws for new GM techniques in Tasmanian news site, claims "widespread non-compliance with Office of Gene Technology Regulator's safety rules and licenses have been confirmed"

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports Australian-led researchers are working to control cotton bollworms and corn earworms, say pests are "humanity's greatest competitors for food and fibre;" research team has mapped their genomes and fears "the two could hybridise to create a new super pest"

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 9 01:40 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 European regulators would need more time to review Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto. Activists highlighted a new release of court documents related to a lawsuit over Monsanto's herbicide Roundup and the crops designed to tolerate it.

- European regulators announced that they would delay a decision on Bayer's proposed takeover of Monsanto, pushing an Aug. 7 deadline back to Aug. 22. The news was accompanied by reports that Bayer was offering additional concessions to ensure the deal met approval. In the U.S., a National Taxpayers Union representative criticized Democrats' opposition to the merger, arguing that it was based on reflexive dislike of Monsanto rather than any legitimate competition concerns. **See more**.
- Attorneys suing Monsanto posted more than 75 new court documents today, alleging that the company colluded with regulators to hide health risks of its Roundup herbicide. U.S. Right to Know's Carey Gillam highlighted the documents, warning that Monsanto's influence on regulatory bodies threw into question the safety of its entire portfolio. The document release was amplified by the NGO Sustainable Pulse, which claimed the documents show Monsanto pressured scientific publishers to withdraw a Gilles-Eric Seralini paper critical of GM maize NK603 and Roundup. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Carey Gillam of U.S. Right to Know writes for Huffington Post, claims newest batch of "Monsanto papers" adds to evidence that the company colluded with EPA to cover up dangers of glyphosate, and that it "ghostwrote" certain studies

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies Baum, Hedlund, Aristei & Goldman's summary of most recent release of documents relating to lawsuit linking Monsanto's Rounup to cancer, highlights documents allegedly demonstrating Monsanto's influence in having Seralini's infamous rat study retracted

Commentary: Brandon Arnold of National Taxpayers Union writes for The Hill, criticizing Democrats' "A Better Deal" economic agenda, believes their opposition to Bayer-Monsanto deal stems more from dislike of Monsanto than any real competition concerns

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt (CADTM) promotes recent launch of North African Network for Food Sovereignty as a framework for unifying struggles and engaging mobilization in the region, highlights goal of guaranteeing free access to seeds

News: Pan-African news outlet reports on debate over Ugandan bill to allow use of GMOs in the country, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) claims the bill seeks to secretly

introduce GMOs without proper safeguards, accuses government of using threats of hunger and armyworms to sway public opinion

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) analysis of some suspected GM products to ensure Nigerians' safety, Director-General Rufus Ebegba says goal is ascertaining whether or not the products are actually GM, called on Nigerians to trust the agency

Commentary: Dr Rose Maxwell Gidado, Nigeria's Coordinator for Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), writes for Nigerian Tribune, explains what GMOs are, and how biotech can be used in conjunction with other modern ag practices, emphasizes scientific consensus on GMO safety

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI) Director Kenneth Danso's assessment that GMOs will be necessary for Ghanaian agriculture to survive climate change, noting traits such as drought tolerance are difficult to achieve with traditional breeding

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Y. S. Chowdary's response to question in House of Parliament Rajya Sabha, noting that the only GM crop currently permitted for cultivation is Bt cotton, and that Bt eggplant and GM mustard have been recommended for consideration

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters reports that Bayer has offered additional concessions to ensure EU approval of its purchase of Monsanto, says company seeks to avoid lengthy review

News: Politico reports that European regulators have extended their review of Bayer's purchase of Monsanto; new deadline is August 22

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports Verband Lebensmittel Ohne Gentechnik (VLOG) certification body Qlip issues first GMO-free certificate to Cheese Pack Holland, as part of the Netherlands' pilot program for GMO-free milk production, in response to German demand

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent biotech lecture by Francisco Bolívar Zapata at Colegio Nacional, Zapata dispelled several concerns about GMO safety and highlighted several environmental benefits, such as reduced pesticide use

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on recent event, Dialogue on Knowledge on Corn and Seeds, where representatives of indigenous communities in the Sierra Norte discussed importance of protecting traditional seed varieties, and called for reforms to the seed law to ban transgenics

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

In global biotechnology developments today, India's Supreme Court announced that it would maintain a moratorium on GM mustard cultivation pending the outcome of a September hearing.

- International and Indian media outlets reported that the Supreme Court would maintain a moratorium on GM mustard commercialization. The court added that it was awaiting a government policy decision. If the crop were approved for release, the court would hear an activist lawsuit protesting the crop's cultivation at a hearing the second week of September. Other news reports noted that the environment minister told the Rajya Sabha that a regulatory committee had approved the crop but that no further decisions had been made. **See more**.
- In a report on the African Centre for Biodiversity website, Third World Network's Lim Li Ching warned that promotional efforts for the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project would open the door to commercial GM crop varieties from multinationals such as Monsanto. **See more**.
- *Irish Times* reported that the country's minister of state for agriculture was urging regulators to consider whether the island could benefit from a GM-free status and potentially act as a biodiversity reserve in the case of "a scare." **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Interview: GMO Answers interviews high-tech agricultural startup scientist Xiaohua Yang on Medium, she believes scientists need to become better story tellers to help engage the public, points to several potential biotech applications

News: New York Times reports on increase in land disputes in Kenya, usable farmland is rapidly disappearing due to climate change and overgrazing

News: Genetic Literacy Project contributor looks at efforts to use genetic modification to turn annual crops into perennials; says doubling of major grain crops since 1950s not enough to feed growing population, transforming major crops to perennials could increase production and reduce chemical use

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Lim Li Ching of Third World Network writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), following recent meeting organized by ACB and Kenya Biodiversity Coalition, highlights discussion of concerns that Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project is a way for Monsanto to open the door to GMOs in Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports two Indian states will allow increased pesticide spraying to ward off whitefly bug attacks of GM cotton crop due to weather conditions

News: Bloomberg reports India's top court puts commercial release of a GM mustard variety on hold until decision on activist lawsuit, case scheduled for September

News: Indian news source reports Supreme Court says it would hear a plea challenging commercial cultivation of GM mustard crop in the country before sowing season begins if the government decides to approve it

News: Indian news site reports state agriculture minister for Tamil Nadu asserts state government will not allow introduction of GM mustard, not even for testing

News: India Today reports on government's announcement that it will make its decision on GM mustard in September, following approval from GEAC, highlights opposition from environmental activists from the Sarson Satyagrah, who urged Prime Minister Modi to reject its approval

News: Press Trust of India reports on Central Government's announcement to supreme court that it will make a decision on whether to allow commercial roll-out of GM mustard in a month and a half, if the government decides in favor, the court will hear a petition challenging its release

More Asia items

Europe

News: Irish Times reports country's ag minister believes Ireland should remain GMO-free to maintain biodiversity, differing opinion to Agricultural and Food Development Authority

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports draft of Food Chain Management Act published for discussion, would unify all food chain activity including GMO regulation under a common framework

Commentary: Inf'OGM says NGOs need opportunity to help define priorities of France's food congress, including adding GMOs to the agenda; adds range of perspectives sought so far isn't broad enough

News: Bloomberg reports Bayer CEO Werner Baumann recently told investors that there is "no reason to doubt" that planned deal with Monsanto will close by the end of the year, even if EU Commission decides to open a Phase II in-depth review

More Europe items

Latin America

Audio: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation says biofortified cassava with beta-carotene is an excellent food for school lunches, contains important nutrient to prevent health problems

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor summarizes history of GM seed regulation in the country, praises recent rule finally allowing entry of GM seeds for research purposes, notes it is unknown when controversy over potential health and environmental effects will end

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on government's willingness to make changes in its seed law, as long as consensus is reached in agribusiness and seed industry, according to Minister of Agroindustry, Ricardo Buryaile, highlights government's resolution with Monsanto over its Intacta GM soybean variety

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: University of Melbourne professor writes for The Conversation, examines various agendas that have earned the label "anti-science," as well as how science serves social and political agendas, argues that the populist left's anti-GMO stance is more conspiracist than leftist, and leftist anti-GMO sentiment is more about anti-corruption

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on accidental planting of GM canola by South Australian farmer in spite of the state's ban, Biosecurity South Australia executive director Will Zacharin noted the farmer will not be held responsible, but seed companies have been warned to be more careful

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 31, 2017
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 4:02:51 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

U.S. activist groups were energized last week when *The New York Times* ran with a story raising alarm about the presence of glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream products. Upon closer examination, the claims didn't hold up.

This week's newsletter features pieces by Kevin Folta explaining how the *Times* failed to check out research that was not peer-reviewed or even published in a journal. He also explains how Ben & Jerry's likely riled the Organic Consumers Association by refusing to bow to its demands. Julie Kelly explores the failings of the NGO's research and the newspaper's journalism while Stephan Neidanbach examines the questionable background of the glyphosate opponents attempting to smear the herbicide.

Other pieces touch on the promise of gene editing, how Chipotle's norovirus outbreak serves as a reminder of the chain putting ideology ahead of food safety and a push for biotechnology regulations in Uganda. There's also a piece from *The Washington Post* exposing common myths about agriculture.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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: John Fagan

This week, The New York Times amplified a "report" about glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream products

Stories Worth Sharing

Kevin Folta: New York Times article on glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream combines bad science, bad journalism Part 2

Julie Kelly: New York Times article on Roundup in Ben & Jerry's ice cream "deceptive and dishonest," riddled with errors

Stephan Neidenbach: Ben & Jerry's glyphosate scare spread by anti-vaxxers with history of shunning scientific accuracy

David Zaruk: Eight tips for dealing with coordinated attacks from organic activists on glyphosate, "Food Evolution"

Paul Vincelli: Gene editing an environmentally friendly choice for crop protection

Uganda National Biosafety Committee chairman: Efforts to block biotech regulations lead to lack of oversight, "jungle law"

Kevin Senapathy: Norovirus outbreak another reminder Chipotle eschews modern farming practices "at the expense of food safety"

Joseph Perrone: Chipotle food safety issues no surprise as some organic practices risk exposing fruit, vegetables to fecal microbes

that was authored by John Fagan, identifying him only as the chief executive officer of Health Research Institute (HRI) laboratories. Fagan and other experts cited by the Times unanimously claimed the levels of glyphosate found pose a risk to human health.

What the Times failed to note were any details or background about Fagan, his bizarre views or his business history on the topic of food production and testing as the "Raja" for the Maharishi religious cult charged with ensuring health invincibilify for movement members via food purity and testing labs.

CLICK HERE to see more details The New York Times failed to mention.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Mischa Popoff: USDA Organic Program "leads consumers to pay more for organic food" more likely to make them sick

"Plant M.D." Tim Durham: Using precautionary principle to block biotechnology "obstructionist" with its unblemished safety record

Tanzania agriculture ministry official asks seed companies to provide Water Efficient Maize for Africa varieties to smallholder farmers

Henry Miller: USDA hits "cluelessness trifecta" with its regulation of GM petunias while admitting no plausible expectation of harm

Jenna Gallegos: Exposing 10 "mega myths" about farming, GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Organic Consumers Association tests finding glyphosate traces in Ben & Jerry's ice cream prompt unbalanced article in The New York Times

Study: Delays in biotech approvals cost sub-Saharan Africa thousands of lives, millions of dollars each year

Stanford researchers claim climate change will lead to more rain, causing more nitrogen-based fertilizers to wash into waterways

Golden Rice advocates offer sample letter asking Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry to support approval of biofortified GR2E rice

Chairman of U.S. House Agriculture Committee willing to consider neonic ban as part of farm bill negotiations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA formally post withdrawal of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) to Federal Register

Calendar highlights

August 1	August 5	August 7-10
Iowa Water Quality Summit	African Centre for Biodiversity seed bill workshop	National Association of Plant Breeders annual meeting
August 7	**August 10**	**August 12**
"Food Evolution" screening at National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Organic Consumers Association glyphosate protests against Ben & Jerry's in six U.S. cities	Final public hearing on South Africa Plaint Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement bills

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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This weekend's global biotechnology developments included a *PLOS One* study that found Nigeria's delays in adopting GM crops costs the country millions of dollars and possibly thousands of lives.

- A study by Wageningen University researchers suggests delays in approval for the pod-borer-resistant GM cowpea costs Nigeria between $33 million and $46 million annually while between 100 and 3,000 lives are lost. **See more**
- Indian news site *Mint* reported the government told the Supreme Court that GM mustard has 20-year history of safe use, noting the product being considered for commercialization is not herbicide-tolerant. The court had requested the government provide information on how the GM crop would impact other crops. Meanwhile, *Press Trust of India* reported activists are increasing campaign efforts as the Supreme Court hearings begin. **See more**

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North America

News: Florida NPR affiliate reports on University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center's efforts to use CRISPR to combat citrus greening

Commentary: Anti-GMO magazine profiles baseball player venturing into organic farming, says organic offers health benefits; adds eating organic, avoiding GM foods helped his athletic career

Commentary: Kevin Folta in Medium blog post accuses New York Times, Organic Consumers Association and Regeneration Vermont of conspiring to destroy Ben and Jerry's reputation, notes OCA's data on glyphosate residues in Ben & Jerry's ice cream is not published or peer reviewed, and is likely not accurate

Commentary: Jeffrey Smith of Institute for Responsible Technology writes for Huffington Post, claims recent Nature Methods study demonstrating unintended mutations in CRISPR mice exposes several new health risks posed by GE mosquitoes and GE salmon

News: New York Times reports on Japanese research team's development of a truly blue chrysanthemum, notes commercialization may be difficult due to concerns about potential environmental contamination

More North America items

Africa

News release: Wageningen University promotes study finding unjustified delays in biotech crop approvals in sub-Saharan Africa costs thousands of lives, millions of dollars

News: Ugandan farm news site reports Parliament to consider biosafety bill tabled since 2013, notes agencies develop 17 GM crops that would benefit farmers, but will be unavailable commercially unless

Parliament approves bill

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's call on farmers to trust the agency to ensure safety of GMOs prior to release on the market, during recent visit with members of Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports activists increase campaign efforts as GM mustard Supreme Court hearing begins

Interview: Former Indian environment minister Jairam Ramesh tells Indian news site environmental protection can't be left to market forces, but central government leans that way, noting GM mustard approval; says Supreme Court lately has supported the executive, boding ill for the environment

Commentary: Ex-health minister for India writes open letter, endorsed by 34 medical professionals, to Prime Minister Modi, claiming GMOs and pesticides are hazards to human health, claims assessments were inadequate, urges Modi to reject GM mustard commercialization

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission's authorization of using a GE fungus strain in production of adult food suplements, objects to lack of labeling or risk assessment, even though no GE material remains in the final product

Commentary: Contributor for Evening Standard (U.K.) examines GMO debate, highlights benefits such as helping improve food security in developing African nations, argues that pesticides are responsible for bee colony collapse, notes GMOs can help reduce pesticide use

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports Agricultural Union of Avellaneda denounces Monsanto's actions regarding fees for its Intacta GM soybean variety

News: Costa Rican news site reports activists submit 28,000 signatures requesting government to label GM products after study finds 85 percent of items analyzed contain transgenic ingredients

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports SA government's GMO ban is popular with consumers, but SA farmers argue that GMOs are safe and the ban stifles agricultural growth

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on South Australian Premier's rejection of calls from grain farmers to lift the ban on GM crops, Grain Producers South Australia chairman Wade Dabinett argues the government has no proof that there is any economic benefit in maintaining the ban

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 a Capital Research Center article giving the USDA's National Organic Program a failing grade, and *Des Moines Register* contributor says a Bayer-Monsanto merger will be bad for rural areas.

- A Capital Research Center article by "Is It Organic?" book author Mischa Popoff claimed the USDA's Organic Program leads consumers to pay more for food and to buy products more likely to make them sick. Meanwhile, it noted the organic industry's war against biotechnology is sustained and well-funded. **See more**
- Ex-U.S. Treasury economist Austin Frerick wrote a piece in *The Des Moines Register* arguing that falling crop prices and a wave of agricultural industry mergers would stress farmers and rural economies. Frerick suggested not only should the Bayer-Monsanto merger be opposed, but the existing large corporations should be broken up. Frerick was interviewed about his piece by *Politico*. **See more**

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North America

News: NPR reports on Japanese scientists' development of "true blue" GM chrysanthemum, Naonobu Noda of Japan's National Agriculture and Food Research Organization noted there are no specific plans for their sale, as GMOs are difficult to commercialize

Commentary: University of Kentucky professor Paul Vincelli writes for Ensia, provides several examples of how genetic engineering, especially gene editing, can make crop protection much more environmentally friendly, notes pesticides have potential for misuse, but disease and pest-resistant crops reduce pesticide use

News: Canadian news site reports country's Environment Minister says proposal to grow AquAdvantage GE salmon on Prince Edward Island will face environmental assessment and be subject to strict requirements

Commentary: Highlighting biotechnology's potential for reducing hunger, BORGEN Magazine contributor claims the technology is 'wrongfully exploited' by multinational companies when poorer countries should be benefitin

Letter to the editor: Illinois farmer explains his 20 years of success using GM crops and herbicides like glyphosate; says he is confident in the safety of the food he grows for his family and consumers

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports the country will most likely face food shortages this year due to fall armyworm devastation of maize crops, Ministry of Agriculture announced only one out of the five

pesticides it has imported is effective against the pest, highlights plans to import an additional 3,000 liters of Neemazal

News: IPP Media reports on recent statement by acting director for research and development in Tanzania's Ag Ministry, Jackson Nkuba, calling on seed companies to make Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) drought-tolerant varieties available to smallholder farmers, in order to boost growth in the ag sector

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news site reports professor notes difficulties in marketing GM crops, notes lengthy and costly approval processes

News: Iowa Farmer Today reports Iowa agricultural groups 'seek more access' during trade mission to China; notes some working on a more transparent approval system for crop biotech traits

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agribusiness Intelligence reports USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service extends deadline for public comment on scope of GMO food disclosure rules, giving stakeholders until August 25

News: NutraIngredients reports Nature Scientific Reports team from Rothamsted Research Institution in UK successfully cultivated GM plant-derived omega 3 on commercial scale

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces bill would ease restrictions on producers regarding labeling GMOs, would require reporting only products with more than 1 percent GMO ingredients, would not require transgenic symbol

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Anti-biotech NGO reports on Australian researchers developing GM banana with pro-vitamin A, field trials in Uganda; notes AC-Bio doubts biotech's capacity to meet Africa's needs

News: Australian news site reports field test for Bt cotton Bollgard 3 in Western Australia, researchers hope results approach top yield worldwide

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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 advocacy campaigns against Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. U.S. science commentators responded to the latest norovirus outbreak in a Chipotle restaurant.

- Civil society groups in the U.S. issued an open letter asking the U.S. Department of Justice to block Bayer AG's proposed purchase of Monsanto Co. The groups - including Food & Water Watch and the National Farmers Union - warned that the merger would reduce competition in cottonseed and herbicide resistance traits. The campaign follows a letter from European activist group Avaaz that similarly criticized the potential impacts on competition as European antitrust regulators seek to complete their preliminary review of the deal by Aug. 7. **See more**
- Following last week's news that Chipotle had to close a Virginia restaurant over another norovirus outbreak, commentary in *The Hill* and *Forbes* criticized the chain for focusing on its non-GMO marketing claims rather than emphasizing actual food safety issues. A report in *Fox Business* added that Chipotle did not meet Non-GMO Project guidelines for being free of GM ingredients despite the campaign. **See more**
- In Uganda, the *Daily Monitor* continued to highlight the country's newly relaunched National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill. In a point-counterpoint today, experts argued for and against the proposed legislation. **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: Food & Water Watch, American Antitrust Institute and National Farmers Union announce they have sent joint letter to Department of Justice in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, NFU's Roger Johnson argues the merger will negatively affect markets for both GM and conventional seeds

Campaign: American Antitrust Institute, Food & Water Watch and National Farmers Union write joint letter to Department of Justice in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, arguing that consolidation does not necessarily drive innovation, and claiming that the merger will lead to increased prices for farmers and consumers

Commentary: In Forbes, Kavin Senapathy skewers Chipotle for "stubborn commitment to eschewing modern food science and agricultural practices, even at the expense of food safety," noting its opposition to safe genetic engineering techniques

Commentary: Joseph Perrone of Center for Accountability in Science writes for The Hill, criticizing Chipotle's continued "better-for-you" branding free from GMOs and antibiotics, following most recent outbreak of foodborne illness in the Beltway area, points to several examples of how organic is no safer or healthier

News: Fox Business notes recent issue with customers getting norovirus isn't first problem for Chipotle, lists its untrue claims about antibiotic-free and GMO-free menu items

Commentary: Business Insider shares conspiracy theory from Natural News article accusing biotech

industry of planting E. coli to destroy Chipotle because it has publicly denounced GMOs, notes there is no evidence to back up claims

News release: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network welcomes confirmation that AquaBounty does not yet have federal approval to commercially produce GE salmon at its facility in Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island, Mark Butler of Ecology Action Centre called for transparent environmental risk assessment prior to approval

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: New York-based investor writes in CNBC Africa about biotechnology's potential to bolster region's food security, calls on governments and investors to embrace the technology

News: Ugandan news site reports scientists moving away from genetic modification to use synthetic biology, which may not require laws in order for farmers to access the technology; notes Science & Technology minister urges Ugandan legislators to pass biosafety bill

Interview: Ugandan news outlet interviews two experts on the Biosafety Bill, one advocates caution, criticizing the bill for not mentioning the precautionary principle, while the other calls for its passage, pointing to several benefits of biotech for Uganda, and noting opposition is based on misinformation and fear

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on recent workshop where biosafety experts from South Africa and Zimbabwe emphasized importance of promoting understanding of biosafety issues in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, Dr Hennie Groenewald pointed to need for communication on GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports that activists attending May GEAC meeting questioned safety of using herbicides on GM mustard, noted government's poor record of post-release monitoring

News: The Wire continues with second in two-part series on Swadeshi Jagran Manch's criticism of Modi government's economic policies, with focus on SJM's opposition to GM mustard and Bt cotton, and claims that GEAC's report is unscientific and favors the GM lobby

More Asia items

Europe

Study: Swedish law, ethics professors say EU needs to revamp its regulatory framework governing GM crops

Report: Organic Cotton Accelerator summarizes obstacles to increased organic cotton uptake, emphasizes need for coordination to overcome lower yields and other issues before industry interest disappears

Study: European Food Safety Authority study seeks to develop and harmonize reliable sampling approaches to generate data for GM plant risk assessments, identifies Theory of Sampling as the most comprehensive framework

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission's response to Green MEPs' questions on EU compliance with the Cartagena Protocol regarding transboundary movement of living modified organisms, argues Commission's answer regarding products of mutagenesis is insufficient

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian news site profiles MST movement, says organization uses small farmers' as pretext for "delinquent and liberticidal purposes," violates law without repercussions

News: AFP profiles healthy living TV show host Bela Gil, who touts organic food; notes "poverty increases while transgenic crops and deforestation" continue

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand agriculture news site profiles US farmer who avoided GM crops in 1990s, but changed his mind when he couldn't eradicate weeds without damaging non-GMO crops; notes GM crops make farming easier, reduces pesticide use

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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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 report from activists in Europe criticizing the role of "Big Business" in U.K. trade negotiations. U.S. organic activists launched a campaign targeting prominent ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's over its dairy sourcing.

- Following news that the U.S. and the United Kingdom have entered into trade talks, the activist groups Corporate Europe Observatory and Global Justice Now published a report accusing U.K. trade negotiators of working in secret with corporate interests while ignoring civil society groups and consumers. **See more**
- News outlets in Africa reported on the release of a new generation of maize resistant to the striga weed. The new crop variety, known as Imazapyr Resistant Maize, is being promoted by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation as "StrigAway." **See more**
- *The New York Times* amplified a new glyphosate testing campaign spearheaded by the Organic Consumers Association, which is urging ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's to go beyond its promises to source non-GMO milk and instead use organic milk in its ice cream. **See more**

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North America

News: New York Times reports on Organic Consumers Association commissioned testing which found traces of glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream, global director of social mission emphasized company's transition away from GMOs, noted need to better understand where the glyphosate is coming from

News: Business Insider amplifies New York Times coverage of OCA tests claiming gyphosate found in samples of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, with NGO critical of company's choice to advertise products as "natural"

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association petition urges Ben & Jerry's to stop greenwashing, go organic, claims cow in milk supply fed GM corn treated with "carcinogens and endocrine disruptors" Roundup, atrazine and metolachlor that pollute Vermont's waters

Commentary: Food science writer James Cooper blasts Westminster Bakers for "scare tactic marketing" via Non-GMO Project label, argues every major scientific organization worldwide has concluded genetic modifications pose no harm

News: Capital Press reports Oregon and Idaho sugar beet farmers struggling with glyphosate-resistant kochia weeds; Monsanto and German plant breeding company working to develop genetically engineered sugar beet resistant to glyphosate and dicamba

News: Alaskan news site reports Sen. Lisa Murkowski leads U.S. Senate effort to ban import of GE salmon until FDA requires GM labeling, citing risk to Alaska's fishery industry; notes no health risk from fish

Commentary: Organic lifestyle outlets report Campbell's departure from Grocery Manufacturer's Association largely due to differences on GMO labeling

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan farmers are returning to maize cultivation after development of maize variety resistant to striga weed, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) scientist explains StrigAway is coated with herbicide attached to maize's roots, killing the weed before any damage

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on development of StrigAway maize variety that is resistant to striga weed, against which herbicides are ineffective, it is being promoted by African Agricultural Technology Foundation, and BASF contributed to its development

News: Quartz South Africa correspondent reports Kenya's Biosafety Authority is reviewing application by Israeli company Imaginature to produce transgenic baby's breath flowers; comment period closed, decision expected in coming months

Interview: Nigerian news outlet interviews Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) Project Manager Sylvester Oikeh, he explains how WEMA's new maize variety can prove useful in fighting spreading fall armyworm invasion, in addition to resisting insects and harsh weather conditions

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports that during a house hearing on agrarian crisis, opposition leaders questioned government policies; NCP politician called for open mind on ag technologies

News: Indian business news outlet reports farmers are growing illegal GM hybrid cotton varieties that are both bollworm resistant and herbicide tolerant, the new varieties have not been approved by Indian regulators

Commentary: Hindustan Times reports India's Supreme Court asks federal government to provide research on GM mustard's adverse effects; activist noted Technical Expert Committee report opposed GM seeds for crops originating in India

News: Press Trust of India reports Supreme Court asks federal government for research on adverse effects of GM mustard; notes briefing submitted by activist seeks 10-year moratorium, claims GM mustard causes cancer, will contaminate seed stock, higher yields are a hoax

News: Times of India reports government avoids ban on commercial cultivation of GM mustard by agreeing to provide additional scientific data to Supreme Court

News: India's Financial Express reports commercial launch of GM mustard at least two years away, government tells Supreme Court; decision for release hasn't been made, court waiting on additional information

News: Indian news site reports government tells Supreme Court no final decision has been made on release of GM mustard though the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee has approved it for field tests

More Asia items

Europe

News: Huffington Post UK reports on recent House of Lords report which found that cheap food imports could threaten UK animal welfare standards post-Brexit, the U.S. is able to offer cheaper food due to more relaxed standards on GMOs and animal hormone treatments

Commentary: Global Justice Now director Nick Dearden writes for U.K. news outlet, criticizing International Trade Secretary Liam Fox's secrecy in post-Brexit trade deals, points to recent publication with Corporate Europe Observatory which found 90 percent of trade ministers' meetings have been with businesses

News release: Corporate Europe Observatory and Global Justice Now announce publication of new briefing, "Big Business Britain - How corporate lobbyists are dominating meetings with trade ministers," raising questions about ways in which post-Brexit trade deals could favor interests of Big Business

News: Politico reports opposition in U.K. to importing GM food, hormone-treated beef from U.S. in post-Brexit trade deal; notes U.K. environment secretary seeks to maintain food quality standards of EU

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site says GM foods are cultivated with agrochemicals and pesticides, which affects their composition, flavor; adds they have fewer nutrients, will eventually make people sick

News: Mexican news site reports the government's consultation with indigenous communities concerning the adoption of GM soy has not adhered to international standards on the subject, risking possible confrontations

Commentary: Mexican news columnist examines GMO debate, highlights many economic benefits of the technology, and notes humans have always improved crop varieties through breeding, points to health benefits of GM super banana, voices concern about corporate control of food

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on upcoming Piauí seed fair, hosted from July 27-28, will goal of making farmers aware of risks of transgenic seeds, and to help them identify GMOs and prevent contamination of their fields

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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Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 9:01:48 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

Today's global biotechnology developments included the start of trade talks between the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

- *India Legal* reported that the country's Supreme Court ordered the government to have scientists file an affidavit with the court explaining the potential environmental impacts of its GM mustard seed. The order followed arguments from activist Aruna Rodrigues, who is seeking a stay on the mustard's release. The court has scheduled another hearing for July 31. **See more**.
- *BBC* and other news outlets reported that negotiations had begun between the U.S. and the United Kingdom on a trade agreement following the U.K.'s exit from the European Union. Analysts in the U.K. and in the U.S. noted that food and agriculture were likely to be a focus and noted that British regulations on biotechnology could be among the points of discussion. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Washington Post intern dispels 10 common myths about agriculture, explains that both organic and conventional operations use pesticides, highlights different varieties of GMOs, explains hormone and antibiotic content in farm animals

Commentary: Farmer/assistant professor at Virginia college writes for AGDAILY, deeming application of precautionary principle to biotechnology "obstructionist" because even unblemished safety record over two decades hasn't led to relaxed regulations

Commentary: BIOTECanada president writes magazine article touting Canadian farmers' use of biotechnology to boost yields while reducing "environmental footprint of agriculture"

News: Politico reports Democrats pledge crackdown on corporate monopolies, claiming food-ag mergers will hurt family operations and increase food prices

News: Politico roundup reports China ag ministry says Dow Enlist soybean is not one of biotech varieties slighted for approval, prompting Dow to request clarification on remaining GMOs to be approved; environmental groups to stage EPA protest demanding neonic ban today

More North America items

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina announces conclusion of its Seventh International Conference, with a declaration to step-up opposition to transnational agribusiness and land-grabbing, and to promote food sovereignty and agroecology

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on African Development Bank (AFDB) President Akinwumi

Adesina's announcement of $24 billion in African Agriculture, at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) 50th anniversary celebration, highlighting goal of introducing high-yielding green revolution technologies

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on increasing popularity of organic farming, according to Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (Toam) CEO Jordan Gama

News: Ugandan news site reports First Lady mediates debate over Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012, which has divided MPs, scientists and civil society; notes several GM crops in advanced research stages in Uganda

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India quotes Chairman of Review Committee for Genetic Manipulations, who says that by delaying approval of Bt brinjal, India's done harm while Bangladesh has reaped its benefits

News: Indian news site reports 33 economists petition Prime Minister to commercialize GM mustard; say it would lead to higher yields, augment limited land resources and alleviate farmer distress

News: India Legal reports Supreme Court asks government to have scientists file report on possible impact of GM mustard on other crops; anti-GMO campaigner files petition seeking ban on release

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports 100 percent of cultivated area uses hybrid maize, according to Ag Ministry's Department of Crop Production, including 16 approved GM maize varieties, by the end of March, 2017, 1,500 tonnes of GM maize seeds had been imported

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor warns readers about dangers of GMOs, claiming they are more dangerous in the long-term than Agent Orange, warns about health risks of several GM products

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor reports on recent biotech workshop in Phu Yen, where speakers examined current biotech applications and developments, as well as many benefits while acknowledging certain risks, believes long-term health effects of GM foods are unknown, calls for caution

More Asia items

Europe

News: BBC reports U.K. and U.S. to start talks on post-Brexit trade deal; quotes economist who says U.K. would likely have to amend some of its current standards on GM food

News: Politico reports U.K. trade secretary visit U.S. to discuss post-Brexit US-UK trade expected to raise debate over biotech trade policy, cites U.K. environmental secretary strict stance on food safety standards

News: Irish Farmers Journal reports Ireland approved two Dow GM soybeans that are insect-resistant, herbicide-tolerant; EU likely to approve for import, processing; EFSA says GM soybeans are safe for human health, environment

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM promotes "Maison de la Nature" brochure to raise public awareness about transgenic plants and new GMOs, with focus on "hidden GMOs" and new techniques

Announcement: German liberal policy group Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung and seven other organizations announce publication of a book on agroecology, and how it can save agriculture from industrialization

More Europe items

Latin America

Audio: Radio program by Brazilian Ag Ministry's Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), features researcher Eduardo Alano in discussion on benefits of biofortified cassava

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 - July 24, 2017
Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 4:02:38 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A month after it was released, the "Food Evolution" documentary continues to be a focal point for science communicators discussing genetic engineering. In this week's newsletter, Yvette D'Entremont writes for *SELF* magazine on the film's reliance on scientific findings - a sentiment echoed by director Scoft Hamilton Kennedy.

As European lawmakers move toward a decision on glyphosate's future, Andre Heitz examines activists' "wild allegations" in the Monsanto Papers and Hank Campbell discusses how the International Agency for Research on Cancer's questionable assessment was used to get California to list the herbicide as a carcinogen. There's also ongoing reaction to the recent field studies looking at the impact of neonicotinoids on bees and a *USA Today* piece by Alex Berezow calling out organic foods as a "gigantic scam."

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In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Participatory Ecological Land Use and Management (PELUM)

In the news this week for lobbying against passage of

Stories Worth Sharing

Yvette D'Entremont: "Food Evolution" documentary is "chock full" of science showing GMOs are safe, can help fight climate change

Alex Berezow: Organic food is "gigantic scam," part of trend toward misleading buzzwords in labeling

Andre Heitz: "Monsanto Papers" contain nothing more than "wild allegations" in underhanded campaign against glyphosate

Angela Logomasini: Real headline for European field study should be "amazing finding" that 95 percent of beehives had no neonics

"Food Evolution" director: Film is pro-science and attempts to "reset the conversation" on GMO safety

Hank Campbell: Activists used IARC to "game the system" and get California to list glyphosate as carcinogen

Kevin Folta: Genetic engineering provides potential avenue to combat food shortages due to climate change

Terry Daynard: York University used "dubious bee management and weak statistics" to claim neonics harm bees

Global Farmer Network: India already consumes "huge amounts" of

biotechnology-enabling biosafety legislation in Uganda, PELUM is a coalition of regional and country-based NGOs primarily funded by European donors.

PELUM has country offices that operate as independent local NGOs in multiple African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda.

CLICK HERE to learn more about PELUM.

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imported cooking oil from GM crops, should approve GM mustard

Dan Perrin: Data ignored by IARC could be "final nail in the coffin" for claims that glyphosate causes cancer

Massachusetts Farm Bureau: State's effort to protect bees should look at "whole picture," not single out neonics

Ugandan president calls on Parliament to debate and pass Biotechnology Bill

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What's Trending?

European Commission seeks glyphosate vote by September, threatens not to renew authorization without majority support

Ghana environment ministry to intensify research on armyworm infestation, could pursue genetic engineering

U.K. environment secretary promises "green" Brexit, vows to continue EU restrictions on neonics

China approves import of two GM corn varieties; Dow, DuPont, Monsanto products awaiting decision

Quebec proposes ban on afrazine, chlorpyrifos, neonics; comments accepted through Sept. 1

Rewrite of WOTUS rule to be released for public comment in December; Supreme Court schedules October arguments

Calendar highlights

July 28-29	August 1	August 7-10
International Conference on Nutrition in Medicine	Iowa Water Quality Summit	National Association of Plant Breeders annual meeting

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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This weekend's global biotechnology developments included commentary on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's postponement of a deadline for comment on GMO labeling and media coverage of Campbell Soup Co.'s decision to leave the Grocery Manufacturers Association. A biotechnology conference in Uganda and the potential for genetic engineering to be used as a solution for armyworm issues also attracted attention in Africa.

- USDA announced that it was extending the deadline for commenting on its questions about federal GMO labeling. Reporting on the development, a U.K. agriculture news outlet noted that the GMO labeling rule was listed as "inactive" in the agency's latest agenda. **See more**.
- U.S. food and agriculture news outlets reported on Campbell's announcement that it would be withdrawing from the Grocery Manufacturers Association, citing differences in "principles." Reports noted that Campbell's had previously pledged to disclose GM ingredients on its food products, breaking away from the GMA during the push to pass a federal GMO labeling standard. **See more**.
- India's *Financial Express* reported a group of "eminent economists" wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi arguing there is "no reason" to deny farmers access to GM mustard while the Coalition for a GM-Free India issued a fact sheet listing supposed health and environmental risks from the crop. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Food Dive analyst highlights Campbell leaving Grocery Manufacturers Association as sign of changes in food industry; notes Campbell was first major company to label foods with GM ingredients

News: Politico Pro reports Campbell Soup Co. will leave Grocery Manufacturers Association by year's end, according to Chief Executive Denise Morrison, following disagreement stemming from Campbell's support of mandatory GMO labeling

Announcement: USDA extends deadline for input on National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard until Aug. 25 to allow stakeholders more time to provide feedback

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know questions motives of corporate-funded U.K. Science Media Centre, claims it has "pro-GMO bias" due to past funding from biotech corporations; notes ties to Sense About Science lobbying effort

Commentary: Common Dreams contributor voices concern about Trump Administration's 100 day action plan with China, arguing it puts global agribusiness first, criticizes forward motion of ChemChina/Syngenta deal, in spite of widespread opposition to GMOs by Chinese citizens

Commentary: Keith Kloor writes that Huffington Post's editorial standards vary depending on subject and matter, says after notifying editors of "Paul Thacker's pattern of deceit regarding my work", Kloor was told "Mr. Thacker controls his own work"; Kloor ponders if Thacker had written a factually incorrect

piece on vaccines, his article would never have appeared on Huffington Post

Commentary: Natural News contributor claims unconfirmed allegations about food safety issues in Hampton Creek products, leading Target to recall all its products, is possibly an attempt by biotech industry to sabotage the non-GMO brand from within

More North America items

Africa

News release: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's (COMESA) Getachew Belay noted polarized debate on GMOs leads to indecisiveness in policy making, speaking at 2nd Agri-Biotechnology and Biosafety Communications (ABBC) 2017 Africa stakeholders Symposium in Entebbe

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment Minister Kwabena Frimpong's suggestion that government could consider adoption of genetic engineering as a long-term solution to fall armyworm infestation, highlighting planned research by Crops Research Institute (CRI)

News: Pan-African news outlet reports on Declaration of the 2nd Kwame Nkrumah Intellectual and Cultural Festival, which recognized importance of indigenous knowledge for food sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and community empowerment, called for rejection of "imperialist" use of science and technology, such as GM seeds

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry plans to intensify research on how to control fall armyworm infestation, highlights Kwabena Frimpong Boateng's statement about Crop Research Institute plans to to use genetic engineering

News: Xinhua reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Executive Director Denis Kyetere's announcement of expansion of Imazapyr Resistant Maize (IR Maize) seed with goal of improving maize productivity and boosting food security, helping control the parasitic "witch weed" plant

News: South African news outlet reports on upcoming competition tribunal hearing on proposed Dow-DuPont merger, the tribunal requested further information from Competition Commission about South Africa's maize seed market, and about proposed licensing remedy

News: Ugandan news site reports on gathering of agriculture scientists from 20 countries to discuss science communication techniques; Uganda's minister for Science, Technology and Innovations calls for passage of country's biosafety bill to enable farmers access to GM crops

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba tells chamber of commerce NBMA will ensure "genetically modified crops are safe before they are released into the market"; Edegba adds "farmers can rest assured" government will not do anything to cause economic harm

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Coalition for a GM-Free India claims to bust myths about GM mustard, alleges harm to human health and environment not discovered due to inadequate testing; argues herbicide-tolerant mustard will result in more "toxic residues" from glufosinate

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry's call for adoption of modern biotech to boost food production and sustainability, noting 40 percent of production is wasted in post-harvest losses due to insufficient utilization of biotech

News release: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry calls for adoption of modern ag technologies to avoid post-harvest losses and boost production, LCCI leaders highlighted enormous potential for Pakistan in biotech, calling for collaboration between private sector, scientists, researchers and

government

More Asia items

Europe

News: Rinnovabili reports that 5 Star Movement senators seemed divided about an Italian agriculture committee meeting's decision to approve research on 'new' GMOs

Commentary: Michel-Edouard Leclerc of E.Leclerc Centers writes for Le Monde, weighs in on General Food Congress as an opportunity to re-engineer the agri-food sector, highlights challenges of responding to consumer demands, such as GMO-free or pesticide-free, while maintaining price competitiveness

News: Romanian news outlet reports on view of the country's largest agricultural producer, Agricola Braila, that EU policies on GMOs are discriminatory; company manager says GMOs help fight disease and reduce pesticide use, criticizes policies allowing GMO import but prohibiting domestic cultivation

News: Wageningen University tells Netherlands news source the university is developing cisgenic-resistant potato varieties that could solve phytophthora infestation, particularly for organic farmers unable to use pesticides, cite EU regulation on nbts as barrier

More Europe items

Latin America

News: St. Lucia Times reports public consultation held on proposed bill to regulate GMOs, living modified organisms; notes government position is to regulate through licensing system, allow for public feedback, ensure human health, environmental safety

News: Brazilian news site reports former member of the National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) warns municipalities fighting dengue with GE mosquitoes that any success will be short lived, requiring them "to buy mosquitoes every year", adds "technology is a decoy because the problem is never solved"

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast, hosted by Dr. Paul Vincelli, features Dr. Sabina Vidal of National Republic University in Uruguay, highlighting her lab's interest in genetic improvements in soybeans, as well as how Uruguay's stringent regulations hinder biotech research and innovation

Commentary: Contributor to Mexican news site writes about attack on native maize from GM crops; warns "in a short time we would lose the breeds and varieties of our corn developed through thousands of years of cultivation"

News: Ecuadorian news site reports on new protests by agricultural and peasant organizations against entry of GM seeds for research; indigenous leader says assembly members "sufficiently trained" to analyze issue, calls on protest organizers to avoid confrontations

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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Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 9 01 54 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 an amendment requiring labeling of genetically engineered salmon had been added to the proposed 2018 U.S. budget. In Uganda, the president called on lawmakers to modernize the country's agricultural system.

- *Politico* reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to the proposed 2018 spending bill, which would require retailers to label genetically engineered salmon. The amendment had been introduced last week by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. **See more**
- In a speech opening an annual agricultural showcase, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni called on legislators to help farmers embrace the benefits of commercial agriculture. Museveni urged lawmakers to promote a variety of farming technologies and to pass the country's proposed Biotechnology Bill so that farmers could access innovations developed by local plant researchers. **See more**
- South Korea's Rural Development Association announced plans to conduct an environmental assessment of GM rapeseed in August following reports that the crop had been growing illegally despite reputed eradication. **See more**
- The African Centre for Biodiversity announced an upcoming workshop to help activists prepare for an Aug. 12 public hearing on proposed changes to South Africa's seed laws. The activist group urged supporters to attend in order to discuss issues of food sovereignty and seed access raised by the draft amendments. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Politico reports Senate Appropriations Committee approves amendment to proposed 2018 spending bill requiring retailers to label GE salmon

Commentary: Pacific Legal Foundation promotes its letter to USDA arguing its GMO labeling law contradicts rights established by First Amendment; questions need for law, adding it will hurt small businesses

Commentary: Writing in Huffington Post, Monsanto's Robert Fraley shares key message from his AAAS lecture, argues communication is as important as science in feeding the world, noting GM crops are 'poster child for a science that is widely misunderstood'

News release: Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy opposes Trump plans for NAFTA renegotiation; claims inadequate farmer protections; provisions on "novel and unregulated" biotechnology may harm people, environment

Commentary: Center for Food Safety organic policy manager claims U.S. Senate agriculture committee chairman Pat Roberts, who sponsored bill to prevent state GMO labeling, wants to undermine the integrity of the "entire organic process"

Commentary: Katherine Paul and Ronnie Cummins of Organic Consumers Association call for cracking down on fraudulent organic brands, while also demanding higher standards, urging supporters to boycott "Factory Farm Organic" brands, and speaking out against "natural" label

News: Illinois news site reports Hodgson Mill sued over use of term "All Natural" in products that may contain GMOs; company and plaintiffs both point to lack of FDA definition of "natural"

News: MarketWatch reports Campbell Soup to withdraw from the Grocery Manufacturer's Association over 'purpose and principles' by the end of the calendar year; Campbell's CEO emphasizes transparency with consumers

More North America items

Africa

Event: African Centre for Biodiversity to co-host workshop (Aug. 5) on proposed seed laws in South Africa in preparation for speaking against restrictions on saving, trading, exchanging, selling seeds at final public hearing (Aug. 12)

News: Zimbabwean news source profiles Malawi cotton farmer representing growing trend of African growers abandoning cotton farming due to pest damage; experts say biotech crops could solve problem though most SADC countries apply a precautionary approach to GM crops

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on House of Representatives' passage of second reading of bill seeking to establish a National Renal Center to help over 30 million Nigerians suffering from kidney-related diseases, lawmakers urged government to forestall GMO products by demonstrating need to establish critical health facilities

News release: Ugandan president calls on Parliament to debate and pass Biotechnology Bill; urges abandonment of subsistence farming, move to for-profit commercial agriculture

Commentary: Kenya-based CGIAR scientist begins series on scaling up climate-smart agriculture in Africa, notes challenge of convincing Ugandan farmers to grow drought-resilient maize when main concern is simply growing enough to eat

News: Ugandan news source reports biosafety agencies held symposium in Uganda to discuss ways to build consumer confidence in biotechnology; attendees hope to bridge GMO communication gap in countries struggling to release biotech crops to farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Korean news outlet reports national seed agency survey identifies GM rapeseed in Gangwon province, notes Korea's Rural Development Association plans to conduct environmental impact investigation in early August

Commentary: Korean news outlet contributor authors satirical piece from perspective a unauthorized GM rapeseed plant that explains how it infiltrated Korean fields and how its relatives in Japan hybridized with mustard crop

Interview: Indian business news outlet interviews Rajasthan Ag Minister Prabhu Lal Saini, who views GM mustard as unnecessary due to existence of comparable parental mustard varieties, and noted he does not want to become dependent on any company

Commentary: Global Farmer Network piece by Borlaug Farmers Association of South Asia head argues Indian government should approve commercialization of GM mustard to increase economic, environmental sustainability of farms

More Asia items

Europe

News: EU Observer reports a proposal to allow member state to ban use of GM ingredients in food will likely remain stuck for the rest of the year, Estonian spokeswoman Annikky Lamp noted reopening discussions on the topic is not currently part of the Estonian presidency program

Commentary: Slow Food Italy blog praises Lidl grocery chain for move to phase out GMO feed from livestock production chain, notes concern about Amazon acquiring Whole Foods

News: German magazine examines protracted dispute over Golden Rice and genetically modified foods in general despite support from scientists and Nobel laureates; Golden Rice researcher says Greenpeace's action is akin to stopping him from jumping in to save someone from drowning

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on recent stakeholder meetings on biotech organized by Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, where speakers emphasized importance of new regulations that facilitate development while considering social issues

News: Czech news outlet reports on Ministry of Environment's warning that illegal multicolored GM petunias have been discovered on the market, in addition to orange GM petunias, calling on breeders and growers to check cuttings and seeds, and noting they pose no risk to humans or the environment

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Writing for Colombia biotech trade NGO, Chilean biochemistry student promotes Brazilian study finding 15-year analysis of biotech crop adoption in Columbia affirms biotechnology helps achieve greater crop productivity, reduce pressure on the environment

News: Agencia EFE reports on director general of Mexican ag company Agrobio, Alejandro Monteagudo's assessment that stigmatization of GMOs is due to disinformation tactics of the technology's detractors, pointing to history of safe use

Commentary: Epoch Times Argentina contributor warns about health risks of new gene editing technologies, highlighting several studies demonstrating off-target effects

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) delegate Pedro Armentia López's statement that if a community decides to grow transgenic soy it is a personal decision that must be respected

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports Monsanto data shows Victoria GM canola plantings lag behind Western Australia; farmer says increased premium for non-GM canola explains low uptake in east

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 local news coverage of a biotechnology communication summit in Uganda and additional European activist response to recent votes on GM crop imports.

- Local media outlets reported on statements made at the Agri-biotechnology and Biosafety Communication 2017 Africa Symposium held this week in Entebbe, Uganda. *New Vision* reported that the country's minister for science and technology reaffirmed the government's support for biotechnology but called on scientists to step up communication efforts with the general public. Activists with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) called on regulators to strengthen consumer protections before passing the measure. **See more**.
- European anti-biotechnology activist groups Testbiotech and Inf'OGM summarized the results of the European Parliament vote Tuesday on GM soy imports, noting that a qualified majority had not been reached to reject or allow the crops. Testbiotech noted that it would actively lobby German MEPs to vote against the crop authorizations, rather than abstain from the follow-up vote in September. Inf'OGM used the vote to highlight public opposition to GM crops in the region. **See more**.
- Commentary on China's recent biotech trait approvals continued, with *Reuters* reporting that Dow AgroSciences had requested clarification on the status of its application for import approval of Enlist soybeans. An analysis from Stratfor Enterprises highlighted biotechnology's role in Beijing's long-term food security plans while commentary in lifestyle magazine *Quartz* noted that Chinese consumers remained suspicious about the technology. **See more**.

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North America

News: Quartz reports on China's approval of two new US GM crop varieties for import, in spite of continued public concern about negative health effects, highlights recent Zhejiang University poll which found that most people in China don't know what GMOs are

Commentary: Stratfor Enterprises contributor examines China's approval of four out of eight US GM crops for import, at end of 100-day period to develop a trade action plan, believes biotech is part of Beijing's long-term imperative for achieving food security

News: Capital Press reports Scotts Miracle-Gro is making 'significant progress' in eliminating GE creeping bentgrass plants in Oregon; says EPA 'local need' approval of Reckon herbicide allows company to move forward

Report: In Plant Genetics paper, researcher Pamela Ronald concludes that public must focus on sustainability of end product and not how a seed variety was developed; summarizes continuum of breeding technologies

News release: Global Justice Ecology Project says USDA receives 'near unanimous' public rejection of GE eucalyptus trees, adds eucalyptus plantations notorious for depleting waterways

News: Singularity Hub reports on Food Evolution documentary, highlights director Scott Hamilton Kennedy's goal of telling the GMO story correctly using a pro-science approach, Kennedy notes both sides have the same intentions, but emphasized importance of having data to back up arguments

Commentary: Reason Foundation magazine science correspondent criticizes organic farmers and their "anti-science allies" for opposing genetically modified moths that could help achieve organic agriculture's goal of reducing pesticide usage

Commentary: ACSH contributor reports New York exploring use of GM diamondback moths to protect crops; says convincing the public that GMOs are a safe, pesticide-free way to help farmers is 'no small task'

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA says Ugandan government wants Parliament to pass biosafety bill; Ugandan minister for Science, Technology, Innovation expresses support for the bill at symposium

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on civil society organizations' opposition to biosafety bill, Betty Rose Aguti of Caritas Uganda advocated adherence to the Precautionary Principle, arguing the bill contains several clauses in need of amendment to protect Ugandans from risks posed by unintentional release of GMOs

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on recent Agri-biotechnology and Biosafety Communication (ABBS) 2017 Africa Symposium in Entebbe, where Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye urged scientists to take advantage of the symposium to improve their communication skills

News: Ugandan news site Daily Monitor's Michael J. Ssali says Uganda cannot afford to take food security issues lightly, needs GM crops to help farmers address pest control, disease, climate change issues and to feed its people; urges passing biosecurity bill

Interview: Prospective political party chairman and activist tells Nigerian news site he got involved in politics to oppose GMOs, says anti-biotech forces need politicians who are activists and oppose biotechnology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports Dow AgroSciences seeks clarification from Chinese Ag Ministry on its position re Enlist soybeans, after the product was not approved this week with other US biotech products for import

Commentary: Sylvian Huguenard of BASF South Asia writes for The Hindu BusinessLine, highlighting immense potential of biotech crops to decrease water consumption while boosting yields, amid growing issues of water conservation and usage

Commentary: Chandra Bhushan of Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi writes for Hindustan Times, argues Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's new organic certification regulation will adversely impact small farmers and hinder growth in the sector, argues products grown using pesticides and GMOs should be labeled

Commentary: Professor M S Swaminathan notes he stressed in a 2004 statement on India's GM crops policy that non-GMO methods of addressing agricultural issues should be explored before biotechnology

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Testbiotech says German government's abstention on vote to allow EU imports of GE plants paves way for Bayer and Dow; adds most EU member states voted against authorization

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO says meeting of EU Member States fails to reach qualified majority to import GM soybeans, confirming continued opposition of France; adds context of vote peculiar given EC import approvals

News: Scottish farming news outlet reports on Romanian farming company Agricost's complaints about EU GMO policy, president Lucian Buzdugan pointed out that prohibiting farmers from growing GM crops while allowing GM imports is discriminatory, noting GMOs would help farmers become more environmentally friendly

News: Italian news site reports court denies damages for Giorgio Fidenato in lawsuit against state for banning GM corn cultivation

Interview: Provincial Farmers Union president suggests genome-edited corn could be solution to using less water for corn crop, coping with drought

News: Italian news site reports Italy to finance research on NBTs despite fact that EU Court of Justice has yet to rule on whether GMO regulations apply to gene-edited products; ag minister says Italy "must prepare to face this new frontier"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site report Brazil will overtake US as leading soy producer in the next decade; notes Bolivia planted 1.2 million hectares of GM soy although only certain modifications are allowed, putting country in top 10 producers

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 - July 18, 2017
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 9 04:14 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 declaration from European member states calling for increased efforts to develop domestic soybean production. Commentary continued on an India Supreme Court hearing addressing GM mustard commercialization.

- Thirteen EU member states signed a Germany- and Hungary-led declaration calling for increased investment in domestic, non-GMO soy production. Italian activist group Coldiretti applauded the declaration. **See more**.
- Activists continued to respond to India's Supreme Court hearing on GM mustard. *The Times of India* amplified a statement from agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan, who reiterated his concerns about the ecological impacts of the crop and called for developing a similar variety via marker-assisted breeding. *Press Trust of India* reported that the government did not have plans to again meet with farmer groups opposed to the crop's commercialization. **See more**.
- "Food Evolution" filmmakers spoke to *Food Manufacture* about industry missteps in commercializing GM crops. In a separate article, *SELF* magazine published commentary from science communicator Yvette D'Entremont. The article urged *SELF* readers to view the documentary with an open mind and compared the scientific consensus on GM crops to that on climate change. **See more**.
- U.S. trade group Biotechnology Innovation Organization announced that it was committed to ensuring the success of the 100-day trade talks between the U.S. and China, emphasizing its focus on ensuring that that all pending biotechnology traits receive approval. *Reuters* reported that Monsanto and DuPont were urging the country to ensure that GM crop import approvals were conducted through a transparent process. **See more**.

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North America

Report: Plant Biotechnology Journal paper concludes that a close examination of studies claiming that adverse effects from GM crops are a 'cause for concern' are methodologically flawed and thus invalid

Commentary: "Scibabe" Yvette d'Entremont writes for Self in support of Food Evolution documentary, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety as well as environmental benefits, debunks several myths about Monsanto and Roundup

Commentary: University of Florida scientist Kevin Folta writes Medium column suggesting genetic engineering provides a potential avenue for dealing with food shortages that could be caused by climate change

News release: BIO says it is focused on 'full success' of US-China 100-day trade plan, will work to resolve China's remaining technical questions related to GM crop imports in a timely manner

Video: Video by American Seed Trade Association and CropLife International highlights challenges to modern food production including global spread of disease, climate change and increased population

growth, presents gene editing as similar to traditional plant breeding

News release: Friends of the Earth analysis of Trump Administration's objectives for renegotiated NAFTA stresses concerns over hindrances on efforts to stop neonics use, protections placed on biotechnology, use of GMOs

Campaign: Filmmakers behind FED UP, Super Size Me and GMO OMG ask readers crowdfund 'The Devil We Know,' a film about 'unregulated' chemicals in drinking water near DuPont plant

More North America items

Africa

Report: African Centre for Biosafety highlights Bt cotton field trials underway in Swaziland; points to 'potentially severe, adverse effects' and calls for more cautious approach

News: Ghana News Agency reports on recent workshop on developing roll-out plan for implementation of Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), an initiative developed by Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and sanctioned by African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners of Nigeria's (ACMPN) recent call for adequate funding for research and development of GMOs, so that Nigeria can reap benefits of the technology while protecting citizens' health and the environment from potential risks

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National President of Epidemiological Society of Nigeria (EPISON), Professor Ayuba Zoakah's recent statements in support of biotech, noting it has been misinterpreted due to lack of information, reports Water Efficient Maize for Africa variety has proven resistant to fall armyworms

Commentary: Agago North MP Morris Ogenga-Latigo writes for Ugandan news outlet, provides scientific background on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, explains importance of biotech for addressing challenges of pests, diseases and climate change, laments fear-based demonization of GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports government hasn't made decision on GM mustard but is hearing suggestions; GEAC has approved GM food crops with certain conditions, how to label still being determined

News: China Daily reports most corn produced in Nebraska is GM, with most varieties now approved in China; head of Nebraska Corn Board says corn a value-added export partner with state's beef

News: Reuters reports DuPont, Monsanto urge transparent, science-based GM crop reviews in China after it approved two GM crops for import but left four others waiting following 100-day trade talks

More Asia items

Europe

News: New Europe reports 13 member states sign German-Hungarian led European Soya declaration, highlights domestic cultivation potential of non-GMO soy

News: Italian news outlet reports on farmers association Coldiretti's statement welcoming signing of European Declaration on soybeans and other legumes by four EU countries including Italy, noting it will encourage sustainable development of soybean production without use of GMOs

Announcement: Politico posts text of agreement by 13 EU nations to support sustainably grown soy, development of markets for non-GMO soybean products; declaration also encourages "as little as possible" principle for crop protection

News release: European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), COCERAL and FEDIOL call for coherence in EU strategy to enhance soy production, noting non-GM/GM status is not a criterion for sustainability

News release: EuropaBio criticizes recent signing of European Soya Declaration by 14 member states, noting it ignores important environmental and economic benefits of growing and importing GM crops, and that increased land use would be required for EU to become self-sufficient in non-GM soy production

Campaign: Polish Civil Affairs Institute (INSPRO) urges supporters to sign petitions asking Polish retailers to offer GMO-free food, amid Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's work on changes to rules on GMO-free labeling

Commentary: EuropaBio newsletter features opinion by MEP Christofer Fjellner of Sweden, urges policy makers to utilize scientific evidence on GMO, glyphosate; notes recent GM crop authorizations

News: Food Manufacture reports on Food Evolution's Trace Sheehan's recent statements at Institute of Food Technology's (IFT) Annual Convention & Food Expo, he believes negative public opinion of GMOs is caused in part by failure of Monsanto and others to communicate benefits

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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Date: Monday, July 17, 2017 9 04:06 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 include new GM crop import approvals in China and an update to the ongoing lawsuit over GM mustard cultivation in India.

Consolidated highlights include:

- According to *Reuters*, China's agriculture ministry approved two new GM crops for import - Syngenta's Agrisure Duracade insect-resistant corn and Monsanto's Roundup Ready glyphosate-resistant corn. The move comes as part of trade discussions between the U.S. and China, and it brings the total of recently approved GM crops to four. Crop traits from Monsanto, DuPont and Dow are still awaiting approval. **See more**.
- During a hearing today, the Supreme Court of India gave government officials a one-week deadline to outline a plan for reviewing feedback and making a decision on the commercialization of GM mustard. India's additional solicitor general had told the court that the government had not yet developed a policy on the crop's approval. The court responded by urging officials to take a "considered" approach to the decision. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Doctoral student in agricultural economics writing on Cornell Alliance for Science refutes claims about "Food Evolution" in UC Berkeley letter denouncing film as propaganda; argues biotechnology is trying to improve accuracy in plant breeding

News release: Alaska U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski introduces legislation mandating clear labeling for GE salmon, as well as required third-party independent scientific review of FDA's environmental assessments

Commentary: CropLife guest writer and former Monsanto staffer says Monsanto's success in past 30 years largely due to simplifying crop agriculture; adds future ag methods returning to complexity

More North America items

Africa

News: East African Business Week reports new ISAAA report reveals world increasingly embracing GM crop cultivation, adds that several African countries are nearing commercialization of biotech crops

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Chairman of the World Agricultural Forum explains how trade, food security and new

technologies all help to ensure food security; notes modern techniques, including modified crops, are key

News: India Legal reports Supreme Court will allow four weeks for objections to be heard following government's decision on GM mustard

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Supreme Court granted government one week's time to provide timeline on when it will make a "well-informed and well-intentioned" policy decision on GM mustard

News: Reuters reports China approves Monsanto, Syngenta corn for import; four other products owned by Monsanto, DuPont and Dow on waiting list pending Beijing approval

News: Press Trust of India reports Supreme Court asks national government to take a "considered" and "well-informed" view before making a decision on the commercial release of GM mustard, summarizes history of the lawsuit

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports Department of Crop Production imported 1,500 tons of GM maize seed with stem borer resistance and glyphosate tolerance, hopes to increase production

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Syngenta announces it has received import approval from Chinese Ministry of Agriculture for its Agrisure Duracade, approval covers corn grain and processing co-products

News release: Frontiers in Plant Science says researchers find key to produce better crops may lie in combining traditional knowledge of Ethiopian subsistence farmers with plant genomics

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Contributor to Argentinian news site says agri-food industry has sophisticated model to communicate towards clients, but not society; looks at Jeff Bezos' interest in buying organic Whole Foods as "great example of today's models that do what people expect and not what companies need"

News: Chilean news site reports producers in Guaminí province of Buenos Aires, Argentina are cultivating 1,300 hectares under agroecological model without GMOs or pesticides

News: Mexican news site reports Yucatan looking to add GM soy crops while waiting for outcome of court case blocking cultivation; country currently has 146 GM crop authorizations

News: Mexican news source reports eight Ethiopian researchers visited the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) to learn about protected agriculture and livestock management; potential application of agricultural genetic engineering in Ethiopia cited

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 17, 2017
Date: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:04:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a variety of commentary pieces on key regulatory topics in the news: an examination of how activists are influencing EU oversight of glyphosate and neonics just as a European Commission committee plans to meet this week, a look at the Trump administration's regulation of chlorpyrifos and a critique of proposed funding of organic industry marketing.

The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to attract commentary, with Jenny Splitter this week making the important distinction that Michael Pollan and Marion Nestle are disputing their portrayal in the film but not the scientific consensus that GMOs are safe. There's also another piece - this time from Austin Ruse in *Townhall* - questioning why the U.S. is funding the "fake science" of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, as well as a longform piece examining the evidence that the U.S. honeybee population is not in peril.

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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: GRACE Communications Foundation

GRACE Communications is a leading promoter of the view that conventional agriculture production harms people and the environment.

GRACE runs campaigns and funds activist organizations opposing animal agriculture and the use of biotechnology

Stories Worth Sharing

Shawn Regan: Considering all evidence, there's no sign U.S. honeybee population is declining

Angela Logomasini: Chlorpyrifos decision shows Trump administration is "trying to prevent policies based on junk science"

Austin Ruse: Why are American taxpayers funding the "fake science" of IARC?

Kavin Senapathy: Don't let "peddlers of nonsense" like Non-GMO Project dictate how we grow food

Jenny Splitter: Anti-GMO crowd can criticize "Food Evolution" but can't dispute scientific consensus that GMOs are safe

Henry Miller and Julie Kelly: Organic label is nothing more than marketing tool, does not deserve government subsidy

Yael Ossowski: Activist NGOs "pushing bad science to political ends" to get EU, U.K. to ban glyphosate and neonics

Rafael Salazar: By ignoring science in crusade against glyphosate, anti-vaxxer Robert Kennedy Jr. undermines progressive movement

and chemicals in food production. It also promotes claims that agriculture plays a key role in polluting water.

Led by animal rights campaign funder and activist Helaine Lerner, GRACE is responsible for the "Meatless Monday" campaigns, the Meatrix series and funding for U.S. state initiatives to require the mandatory labeling of GMOs.

CLICK HERE to learn more about GRACE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Paul Vincelli: 15 tips for communicating with the public about GMOs

Andrew Porterfield: Milkweed a necessity for monarch butterflies but a burden to farmers

HarvestPlus CEO Beverley Postma: Biofortification helps make more vitamin-rich food available to developing world

BioScription: Golden Rice, vitamin A-rich banana examples of biotechnology improving nutrition

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Harvard researchers co-author paper questioning study claiming CRISPR methods could cause unintended mutations

Australian researchers announce development of biofortified banana rich in vitamin A aimed at boosting nutrition in Uganda

Complaints about dicamba misuse on rise in central U.S. as two states issue bans

Stakeholders make final push to influence USDA comment period on GMO labeling that ends today

U.S. Right to Know activists file lawsuit seeking University of Florida communications with agrichemical companies

Calendar highlights

July 16-20	July 16-24	July 17-22
11th European Conference on Precision Agriculture	International Conference of La Via Campesina	40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
July 18-20	**July 19-20**	**July 22-24**
Red River Valley Agriculture Water Issues Forum	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting	American Veterinary Medical Association conference

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 14-16, 2017
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:09:47 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 highlights over the weekend included NGO campaigns targeted to get comments on GMO labeling in to the U.S. Department of Agriculture before the upcoming deadline. A vote by EU member states on a GM soy variety reached no decision after Germany abstained. A U.S. Senate bill was introduced that would require GE salmon to be clearly labeled.

- NGOs Beyond Pesticides, Moms Across America and Environmental Working Group each encouraged supporters to send comments to the USDA by the deadline Monday, urging the agency to have "clear and meaningful" GMO labels, to include gene-edited products and to avoid using QR codes. **See more**.
- EU member states reached no decision in a vote on importing GM soy as 15 states vote against and 12 states voted for approval while Germany abstained. German NGO Testbiotech criticized German officials for abstaining, saying the lack of consensus means the decision will be left to the European Commission, which is expected to approve the pesticide-resistant variety. **See more**.
- U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska introduced a bill that would require special labeling for GE salmon and other types of GE fish. Murkowski said she does not want "fake fish" sold in stores without clear labeling. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Writing on Medium, Pro-GMO blogger highlights e-mails showing anti-GMO groups coordinated with Berkeley student to criticize "Food Evolution" documentary without disclosing their involvement

Commentary: Kevin Folta urges group of 45 Berkeley faculty and students that signed letter in opposition Food Evolution documentary as propaganda to recant their statements, pointing to FOIA information obtained by Stephan Niedenbach showing that activist groups influenced academics to provide false information

Commentary: In submitted comment, IATP policy analyst Dr. Steve Suppan says proposed elimination of the petition process for GMO deregulation is a "reckless" use of APHIS' statutory authority

Commentary: Scientist Carol Curchoe writes for Ag Daily in support of GMOs, explains why they are safe for human consumption, and how growing opposition in the West negatively impacts developing nations, highlights benefits of golden rice, GM rainbow papaya, and potential solution to citrus greening

News: Alaska NBC affiliate reports on new bill by Sen. Lisa Murkowski to require special labeling for GE salmon and other types of GE fish in the future, with goal of protecting consumers and Alaska's fisheries, highlights Murkowski's concerns about potential environmental impact

Video: Pro-vegan site posts video dispelling nine myths related to biotech crops, focuses on safety for humans and benefits for farmers

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian environmental news site reports Catholic medical practitioners ask government to protect people from health, environmental dangers of GMOs, but to legislate to take advantage of GMOs' benefits

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO argues seed laws restrict farmers from saving seed, claims this has "massive ramifications" on food sovereignty; urges readers to speak up by using email template they have prepare

News: Agrimoney reports South Africa farmers expect record harvests, notes Kenya's restrictions on importing GMOs may affect South African exports to East Africa despite continuing drought there

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports Indian state of Karnataka to oppose GM mustard commercialization, decision made after activists meet with state's chief minister to apprise him of crop's "adverse impact"

News: Bangladeshi financial news site reports ag minister announces government to begin program to cultivate Bt cotton to increase cotton yields

Commentary: Indian news site addresses fallacies regarding GM mustard spread by activists, points out GM mustard safety, notes yields will be greater, notes GM crops grown in 28 other countries

News: Eco-Business reports on recent World Agriculture Forum in Singapore, where panelists, including BASF's Jurgen Oldeweme noted new technologies cannot take root in agriculture without communication and social acceptance, highlighting backlash against GMOs

News: Press Trust of India reports on Rajasthan's Agriculture Minister Prabhu Lal Saini's recent statements against GM mustard, noting he did not want to become dependent on companies for seeds, and arguing that production from traditional varieties is adequate, and that GMOs are unnatural

More Asia items

Europe

News: German ag news site reports EU member state vote result on GM soy approval is "no decision" after Germany abstains; notes EU Parliament Environment Committee passed resolution opposing the GM soy varieties

Commentary: Liturgical animator criticizes Vatican decision to allow GMO wafers for Eucharist, says Christians will "ingest a deadly food," claims it violates the Pope's Laudato Si encyclical and signifies Catholic Church's collusion with powerful corporations

News: Dairy Herd reports on Russian Ag Ministry's draft documents for safety assessment and testing of GM ingredients for feeds, feed additives and veterinary pharmaceuticals, as well as draft documents for GE animals and GE microorganisms

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports Bt corn's success meant it's spread throughout the country, but good management is needed to prevent pests from becoming resistant

Commentary: Bolivian nutritionist warns readers about negative health effects of GMOs and associated

pesticides, as well as negative environmental impacts, encourages them to seek out organic food

News: La Jornada reports beginning of Corn Collective hearing on cultivating GM corn means next few weeks are crucial "for future of transgenic corn in Mexico"

News: Telesur reports Mexican courts begin legal debate on GM corn cultivation in lawsuit brought by NGO Corn Collective, which claims the GM crop damages biodiversity, the environment, and human health

News: Ecuadoran news site reports indigenous people group Ecuarunari files lawsuit claiming new seed law is unconstitutional because it allows biotech research, claims it is "camouflage" to sell GM seed in country

News: Bolivian news site reports Argentine activist attorney says GM soy from Argentina is being marketed and cultivated in Bolivia, claims long-term studies show the GM crop causes cancer in rodents; claims Argentina's GM corn "is contaminating" Bolivia's corn

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports agency lists 32 genetic engineering incidents since 2011, including sheep grazing in GM trial site, scientists failing to comply with safety standards; OGTR assessed all risks as "negligible"

Commentary: Swiss anti-biotech NGO notes GM bananas developed by Australian researchers had bad press in Iowa, notes NGO ACBio skeptical about GM crops as solution for African agriculture

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9 04:44 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 highlights included during a Georgia congressman stating during a U.S. House Committee on Agriculture hearing that he supports genetically engineered crops. A Mexican court will begin a hearing on whether farmers in the country should be allowed to cultivate GM maize. Two activist groups asked readers to write the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding federal GM labeling rules before a Monday deadline.

- During a House Committee on Agriculture hearing on the Farm Bill, U.S. Rep. Austin Scott expressed support for biotechnology and said GE crops allow farmers to produce more food while protecting and preserving the environment. **See more**.
- Mexican news sites reported a hearing will begin on an NGO's lawsuit that will determine whether GM maize can be cultivated in Mexico. The suit was filed against agribusinesses and Mexican regulatory agencies four years ago. **See more**.
- Anti-biotech NGOs Environmental Working Group and Center for Food Safety urged supporters to write the USDA before Monday's comment deadline. CFS asked that its patrons demand labels be placed on packages rather than using QR codes and that food made with CRISPR, RNAi and other techniques be included. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Henry Miller and Julie Kelly write for Forbes, calling for elimination of federal subsidies to organic agriculture, criticizing organic label as a marketing tool, noting organic food is no more nutritious or safer, or any better for the environment, they highlight Washington Post's coverage on fraudulent organic imports

Commentary: Writing for Townhall, conservative author Austin Ruse argues IARC may have defrauded US taxpayers by withholding scientific data that would have vindicated Monsanto's Roundup, suggests IARC participates in creating fake science

News: Brownfield reports CEO of U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance concerned about food companies partnering with Non-GMO Project, challenges food companies to evaluate potential partners and avoid those with ideological agenda

Commentary: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy objects to American Farm Bureau and BIO's criticisms of USDA's proposed new rule on biotech regulation, noting they want even less regulation, criticizes USDA's proposal as insufficient, highlights health and environmental risks of GMOs and associated pesticides

News release: American Seed Trade Association CEO testifies at U.S. House ag committee farm bill hearing, calls on government to avoid burdensome policies on plant breeding that would discourage innovation

Commentary: University of Kentucky plant pathology professor Paul Vincelli posts tips to 'better communicate about GMOs with the public'; says the goal is not necessarily to change minds but to enable informed choices

More North America items

Africa

News: Malawi news site reports ag ministry official says GMOs are key to solving army worm problem, but cultivating GM crops are banned

News: Nigerian news site reports regulatory agencies sign memorandum of understanding to coordinate efforts at regulating biotechnology; NBMA director says it's important for agencies to work together and "speak the truth without fear"

Commentary: In new report, African Centre for Biodiversity criticizes South Africa for granting Syngenta permit to import GM maize; claims US experience shows that contamination is 'inevitable'

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on state Ag Minister Christopher Kibanzanga's assurance that government would do all it takes to ensure that parliament passes the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012, emphasizing safety of the technology and its importance for boosting farmers' incomes

More Africa items

Asia

News: CNN Money examines China's efforts to acquire major seed businesses, highlighting ChemChina's finalization of its acquisition of Syngenta, and a government fund's $1.1 billion purchase of Dow Chemical's Brazilian corn seed and research business, experts point to efforts to boost food security

Commentary: Indian law firm notes India's GMO regulator FSSAI developing new rules for labeling GM ingredients for processed food

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: EU Commission publishes documents for upcoming July 17 meeting of Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed's Genetically Modified Food and Feed section, including draft authorizations of GM soybean varieties by Bayer and Dow

Commentary: Spanish anti-GM NGO amplifies "CRISPR and the three myths of precision gene editing" by Jonathan Latham in Independent Science News, warns "little is known" about "possible unintended effects"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mexican courts open judicial debate on GM corn cultivation in case filed by Corn Collective

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports American plant pathologist Don Huber says region is 'setting a positive example' because of GE free stance; notes Huber claims health problems are linked to GM crops

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 12, 2017
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:05:14 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 highlights included developments indicating expanded biotechnology investment in China. U.S. Right to Know sued for more communication regarding biotechnology from the University of Florida. The "Food Evolution" documentary continued to generate commentary.

- *Reuters* reported Dow sold a portion of its corn seed business in Brazil for $1.1 billion to a Chinese fund part-owned by conglomerate CITIC to meet part of the conditions set by U.S. antitrust regulators for merger with DuPont to go forward.The global investment firm Toria Finance announced a $1 billion trust was established to target China's agriculture sector. The firm views ag biotech as an attractive investment, highlighting environmental benefits of reduced pesticide use and health benefits from products such as Golden Rice. **See more**.
- U.S. Right to Know filed a lawsuit against the University of Florida to compel the university to release Kevin Folta's emails with AgBioChatter and other agricultural industry-related communications. **See more**.
- Natural News continued to attack "Food Evolution" narrator Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and the Institute for Responsible Technology's Jeffrey Smith criticized "Monsanto Troll" tactics, highlighting comments criticizing Marion Nestle. In *The Outline*, Jenny Splitter argued that while some "Food Evolution" critics raise valid food system issues, the documentary is a turning point in the debate as neither Michael Pollan nor Nestle disputed the film's claim that GMOs are safe. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: One of the "Science Moms," Layla Katiraee responds to accusations of being a shill due to her involvement in the independently funded, pro-GMO "Science Moms" movie, explains that almost everyone, even activists, is likely within six degrees of separation from Monsanto

Commentary: ACSH president Hank Campbell notes Organic Consumers Association is in a tizzy over "Food Evolution" documentary; argues anti-science groups know they've already failed when even the Los Angeles Times and The New York Times give the film a thumbs-up

News: Canadian farming publication reports Simplot expects "very small" acreage of genetically engineered Innate potatoes to be grown this year; company wants to ensure market exists before potatoes are planted

Campaign: GMO Inside issues push for clear labeling of all GMO foods, says its essential that "emerging technologies" are included in the labeling law so that consumers "arenâ€™t unknowingly serving as lab rats;" offers sample letter to send USDA

Campaign: Vigilance OGM urges patrons to call Parliament members, sign petition to support GM labeling; notes GM apple, GE salmon to come on market soon, says 75 percent of Canadians support GM labeling but Parliament opposes a bill mandating labels

Commentary: Consumer Affairs notes the U.S. government could approve ArborGen's "invasive, flammable" GE eucalyptus trees to flourish in the South; claims news reports link eucalyptus farms to wildfires becoming a "regular scourge" in Portugal

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA reports Uganda's agricultural minister is enthusiastic about approving GM crops

News: Science news site reports GM bananas developed by Australian researchers could save lives, sight of Ugandan children, notes Ugandan farmers could be growing bananas by 2021; project funded by Gates Foundation

News: Kenya News Agency reports cotton industry expects significant shortage, need to import cotton due in part to bollworm damage; Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology official recommends approval of bollworm-resistant GM cotton

More Africa items

Asia

News: India's Business Standard reports on ABLE-AG's concerns that lingering legal dispute between Nuziveedu Seeds, Monsanto over Bt cotton intellectual property will prevent investment in seed research and development

Commentary: ISAAA reports Bangladesh research, development leaders ready to adopt Bt cotton, ready to build on Bt eggplant's successes

More Asia items

Europe

Study: European Review of Agricultural Economics publishes Swedish research finding Swedish consumer acceptance of GMOs increased environments where GMOs were less restricted

Commentary: Consumer Affairs notes the U.S. government could approve ArborGen's "invasive, flammable" GE eucalyptus trees to flourish in the South; claims news reports link eucalyptus farms to wildfires becoming a "regular scourge" in Portugal

News: Food Navigator reports European Parliament environment committee approved resolution opposing import of Dow's herbicide-resistant soybean despite favorable EFSA safety review; concerns raised about health impact, potential endocrine disruption from herbicides used on the crop

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian regulatory agency Embrapa to discuss using biotech enzymes to animal feed to aid in nutrient uptake

News release: Saint Lucia sustainable development ministry announces plans for public consultation (July 13) on biosafety bill governing use and creation of GMOs, LMOs; bill establishing risk assessment panel endorsed by country's Cabinet of Ministers

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Upworthy reports on GM bananas in Australia developed with vitamin A, technology given to

Ugandan scientists to start experimenting with banana plants; potential to save hundreds of thousands of individuals suffering from vitamin A deficiency

News: Australian news site reports stockfeed manufacturer accuses dairy industry of hypocrisy for opposing GM ryegrass while giving GM feed to milking cows

Commentary: Former Dairy Australia official writes newspaper op-ed suggesting use of GM high-energy ryegrass as feed could be boost to struggling dairy industry

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:04:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology highlights included a European Parliament committee urging the European Commission to block the import of GM soy and a flurry of activity among African stakeholders.

- The European Parliament's environment committee today approved a resolution opposing the import of GM soy. Green MEP Bart Staes issued a statement urging the appeal committee to take similar action Wednesday (July 12) while the NGO Testbiotech expressed concern that member states would abstain and leave the decision in the hands of the commission. **See more**
- The U.S. House Appropriations Committee budgeted $1.5 million for a Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration campaign to boost consumer acceptance of biotechnology in fiscal year 2018. That amount would be 50 percent less than the $3 million allocated for the effort this year. **See more**
- There were several noteworthy stakeholder actions in Africa. The Nigerian National Biosafety Management Agency reportedly signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with the government to regulate GMOs. **See more** A coalition of South African anti-GMO groups asked supporters to submit comments by Aug. 5 opposing a Monsanto application for GM maize approval. **See more** And a new group - the Socio-Economic Resource Network for Africa - has been formed to promote the responsible development of agricultural biotechnology. **See more**

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North America

Report: House Appropriations Committee report provides explanation of accompanying bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2018, calls on USDA and FDA to continue efforts to educate the public on biotech

News: Politico Pro reports House appropriators put aside $1.5 million for USDA and FDA efforts to improve consumer acceptance of biotech in fiscal year 2018, a 50 percent cut from this year's allocation, House Appropriations Committee called for continued efforts to educate the public on safety and benefits of biotech

Commentary: Food Navigator guest writer, CEO of Center for Food Integrity, says only a few days left still to comment to USDA on how to implement GMO labeling law; adds changing consumer interests, lack of transparency, poor marketing gave GMOs a bad name among many consumers, a mistake that should be avoided with gene editing

Commentary: Science 2.0's Hank Campbell responds to Paul Thacker's attack on biotech industry, calls out Thacker for "flacking for organic industry", lack of journalistic credibility; details his ties to U.S. Right To Know and attacks on Keith Kloor and others

Commentary: Natural News accuses "fake" news media of touting purple rice "because it's GMO" while ignoring anti-cancer benefits of non-GMO purple carrots; claims public "growing increasingly skeptical"

of GMOs

News: Smithsonian Magazine reports USDA recently approved release of GE diamondback moths for field trials in upstate New York; notes Gizmodo's Kristen Brown says if approved by state authorities, it will be first wild release of a genetically modified insect in United States

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity announces it has written submission to Department of Health regarding draft regulations for maximum residue levels for glyphosate on GM soybean, summarizes evidence that low dose exposure to glyphosate, glufosinate and 2,4-D can cause serious health disorders

News: Deutsche Welle reports many experts believe proper food management and sustainable growth are keys to feeding growing global population; referencing GMO seeds, Bayer Crop Science spokesperson says growth can only come from innovative practices that "glean more from each acre - without disrupting natural resources"

News: Nigerian news outlets report National Biosafety Management Agency signs strategic memorandum of understanding with government to regulate GMOs; NBMA director general says it will ensure agencies "speak with one voice" on biosafety issues

News: African news outlet reports on launch of Socio-Economic Resource Network for Africa following African Biosafety Network of Expertise planning meeting; group will strategically address responsible development and use of agricultural biotechnology

Commentary: South African anti-GMO/food sovereignty groups ask supporters to submit comments by Aug. 5 opposing Monsanto application for approval of genetically modified maize, claims pesticides used on the crops would cause cancer and harm bees

More Africa items

Asia

News: Thai news site reports ISAAA says many countries cultivating GM crops, with over 90 percent grown in U.S., Canada, Brazil, Argentina and India; adds GM crops help reduce pesticide use by 19 percent, increasing income for farmers, helping preserve biodiversity

News: India fashion magazine amplifies reports on Bangladesh's plans to cultivate genetically modified cotton

News: UAE news site reports GM pink pineapple available commercially in U.S. following FDA approval last year; color of pineapple changed using lycopene, responsible for red in tomatoes and watermelon

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Former environment minister of Paraguay, chair of Friends of the Earth International endorse European Soya Declaration that increases soy production from certified sustainable production systems, arguing expansion of GM soybean has led to deforestation, biodiversity loss and increased pesticide use

News release: Green Party MEP praises Parliament committee vote against import of Dow GM soybeans, claims herbicides used on them are dangerous to human health; urges member states to oppose proposal in separate vote July 12

News release: Testbiotech fears many EU member states will abstain in vote on import of GM soybeans, opening way for EU Commission to approve the imports despite Parliament environment committee wanting imports rejected due to concerns about pesticide residues

Interview: French media site talks with photographer Mathieu Asselin on his photographic essay that focuses on Monsanto's effect on environmental and human health; he urges boycotts against foods made with Monsanto products

News release: Rome mayor Virginia Raggi recently met with Vandana Shiva, Raggi noted they were proud to host the anti-GMO environmentalist, and spoke about negative consequences of CETA trade agreement

News: Agence France-Presse reports on anti-GMO demonstration in which 30-40 Volunteer Reapers blocked entrance to the port of Sète and the Saipol biodiesel factory, activist Jacques Dandelot highlighted goal of denouncing import of GM rapeseed from Argentina and Brazil for use in biodiesel

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Argentinian seed producers say delays enacting law regulating royalty payments for use of second-generation seeds are hampering investments; current framework allows farmers to reproduce and use seeds without paying intellectual property rights

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor examines long history of human plant improvement, dispels fallacy that transgenics are disconnected from thousands of years of human plant breeding, notes there are many more types of GMOs than those with glyphosate tolerance

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Syngenta Mexico General Director Javier Valdés' assessment that after 20 years of use, there is no indication that GMOs are dangerous to human health, he also noted that products designed for use with GMOs are perfectly safe when used according to label instructions

News: Latin American news outlets report Vatican says GM ingredients allowed in unleavened bread served during Holy Communion; adds guidance necessary as Eucharistic bread and wine can be found in supermarkets and on internet

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor examines benefits of certain diets for health, promotes organic and agroecological diets, noting the systems are better for the environment and avoid use of agrochemicals

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Food & Wine reports Queensland University of Technology scientists developed GM bananas with double amount of vitamin A to reduce childhood blindness, illness, death; Ugandan farmers could grow new fruit as soon as 2021

News release: Queensland University of Technology promotes research producing biofortified banana rich in pro-vitamin A; research backed by $10M Gates Foundation grant, aims to improve nutritional content of bananas in Uganda

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 10, 2017
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:01 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

Today's global biotechnology highlights included the release of another paper questioning a recent study suggesting CRISPR techniques could cause unwanted mutations and discussions of GM crops at a Bangladesh agriculture seminar.

- Researchers from Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital published a pre-print of a paper criticizing the recent study identifying unintended mutations resulting from CRISPR gene editing. In the paper, the team suggests the mutations identified in the mice were already there and the location of the mutations suggest they could not be the result of CRISPR. **See more**
- A demonstration today by activists in France reportedly blocked imports of GM rapeseed from Brazil and Argentina. **See more**
- A Bangladesh newspaper reported on a Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council seminar that featured presentations by representatives from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agro-biotech Applications who promoted GM crops as a means to increase food production and nutrition. **See more** In a separate article, the same news outlet noted that about 6,000 farmers are cultivating Bt eggplant, which has motivated the country to conduct field trials of GM potatoes, Bt cotton and Golden Rice. **See more**
- Ongoing reaction to the Vatican's announcement that GMOs are acceptable as ingredients in Eucharist hosts included a Center for Research on Globalization opinion piece arguing the decision raises questions about the integrity of the ritual by endorsing distortions in the genetic code of life. **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

Review: Researchers from Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital release early draft of paper contradicting findings that using CRISPR gene editing technology can cause unintended mutations, researchers found variables within original study that influenced results and recommend revising original conclusions

News: United Press International reports on popularity of GM pink pineapple on Instagram, highlights USDA's approval of the fruit, produced by Del Monte and Dole

More North America items

Africa

Report: Valentin Beauval of French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM writes report on superiority of Algerian farmers' cereal varieties over Green Revolution varieties, recommends implementation of participatory breeding programs

More Africa items

Asia

Interview: Indian news outlet interviews agriculture scientist Vasanth Thimakapura, he notes GMOs have been used for the past 20 years with no negative health effects, believes opposition to Bt eggplant and cotton has no scientific basis, notes organic practices can not meet production needs

News: Pakistan newspaper reports Dadu district farmers drafted document opposing seed amendment act, claiming genetically modified seeds could negatively impact the environment and biodiversity while jeopardizing their livelihood

News: The Times of India reports 18 scientists write to Prime Minister Modi endorsing concerns about GM mustard, claiming it would create male sterility in other crops and saying required herbicide use is health hazard, costly, will lead to resistant weeds

News: The Financial Express reports on Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council seminar in Dhaka, quotes ISAAA officer who says GM crops are being used to increase nutritional values and can help meet 50 percent increase in food demand expected by 2050

News: Bangladeshi finance news outlet reports there are around 6,000 farmers cultivating Bt eggplant, according to Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), in light of its success, Bangladesh is now conducting field trials of GM late blight resistant potato, Bt cotton and vitamin-A enriched Golden Rice

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: British Journal of Photography promotes photographer's "Monsanto: A photographic investigation" gallery show in France and accompanying book, noting company's "pressure on farmers to use patented GMO seeds;" photographer says he is not an activist and tried to stick to facts

Commentary: French newspaper commentary expresses concern about monopolization of agriculture industry amid three major mergers, claims agriculture has been proven to play role in climate change, loss of plant and animal biodiversity

News: Italian news outlet reports on Rome Environmental Sustainability Councilor Pinuccia Montanari's statement praising recent visit by anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva, highlighting discussion on negative impacts of CETA trade agreement on Italy's production system, health and environment

News: Italian news site reports activist Vandana Shiva will participate in flash mob to protest plan to close Rome's drinking fountains; organizers call on city administration to "respect the human right to water and take measures against the drought that do not violate the concept of climate justice"

Commentary: Responding to Vatican approval of GMO bread for Eucharist, international activist and pioneer of UK organic farming Julian Rose expresses "shiver of horror when one links together the hundreds of cases of priestly pedophilia, the sacrilegious ingestion of symbolic body and blood and the promotion of GMO"

News: French news outlet reports on group of anti-GMO volunteer reapers' recent action blocking entry of commercial port of Sète and the Saipol factory, in opposition to import of GM rapeseed from Brazil and Argentina for manufacture of biodiesel

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Chihuahua news outlet reports on assessment by attorney René Sánchez Galindo that transgenic maize has not been detected in the area since 2015, highlighting previous complaints by Greenpeace about GM maize cultivation in spite of restrictions, Pro Transgenics Alliance demands government authorization

News: Brazilian news site reports country's National Technical Commission on Biosafety approves commercial use of world's first GM sugar cane; new variety resistant to sugar cane borer, crops main pest, and considered safe for environment and people; more insect- and herbicide-resistant crops planned

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian science news site highlights independent study by researchers from Harvard and MIT that contradicts findings of study claiming CRISPR technology creates unwanted mutations

News: U.K.-based Evening Standard reports researchers from Queensland University of Technology developed GM "super banana" rich in pro-vitamin A which could "save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of children who die from this deficiency every year"; notes researchers hope bananas will be self-sufficiently grown by Ugandan farmers as early as 2021

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 10, 2017
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 4:03:46 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A field study published in the journal *Science* that used inconsistent data to make the conclusion that neonics are harmful to bees continues to draw the attention of science communicators. In this week's newsletter, we highlight a *Townhall* piece by Paul Driessen of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow and one by plant pathologist Alma G. Laney that take a closer look at the study's data and conclusions.

The "Food Evolution" documentary also continues to be a hot topic, with articles from University of California-Davis researcher Alison Van Eenennaam and a group of five "Science Moms" responding to critics of the film. The Non-GMO Project is the subject of two other commentaries: Kevin Folta points out that the group wrongly criticized a food aid shipment of seeds to Haiti and U.S. Farmers and Ranchers CEO Randy Krotz explains that the group's verification process is simply a business venture that confuses consumers.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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: Better World Cameroon

With promotion of agroecology as a growing political force at international governmental organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional members of

Stories Worth Sharing

Paul Driessen: Authors, reviewers of neonic field study violated scientific integrity guidelines by excluding data

Alma G. Laney: Methods, interpretation of data ott in neonic study that actually shows "no clear impact" on bees

Alison Van Eenennaam: Academics wrong to sign ott on letter criticizing "Food Evolution" without even seeing it

Science Moms: Ideology behind objections to "Food Evolution" documentary jeopardizes evidence-based regulatory process

Richard Roberts: After 30 years of safe GMO usage, it's time for NGOs to admit they're wrong

Randy Krotz: Non-GMO verification a business venture that spreads confusion and inaccurate information

Kavin Senapathy: Court orders Swedish marketers to stop using misleading video suggesting organic diet will reduce pesticide intake

Greg Henderson: "Hormone-free" and "Antibiotic-free" labels a ruse by food marketers preying on ignorant consumers

the International Federation of Organic Movements (IFOAM) are upping their anti-GMO, anti-pesticide and general anti-Western rhetoric.

Better World Cameroon is one example of such local groups helping promote this movement.

CLICK HERE to learn more.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Kevin Folta: Dangers of "uninformed, misplaced" activism on display with opposition to seeds sent for food aid that aren't even GMOs

Andrew Porterfield: Don't believe the myths -- long-term safety studies on GMOs do exist

AGDAILY: U.S. honeybee population not as dire as you might think

Michelle Miller: "Incredibly fishy" for IARC to consider discredited Seralini study but not well-respected glyphosate safety study

Jim Mulhern: Resistant bacteria unfairly blamed on agricultural antibiotic use

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Commission approves import of five GM cotton and maize varieties; soy on agenda for Wednesday meeting

Attorneys general from six states file lawsuit seeking to force U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban chlorpyrifos

G-20 reaction features spike in advocacy commentary, news and event announcements promoting agroecology policy

European Commission committee approves criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals; Parliament has 3 months to act

Syngenta reportedly settles Viptera lawsuit with Nebraska farmer

Calendar highlights

July 11	July 12	July 14
European Food Safety Authority webinar on next generation sequencing (NGS) in GMO applications	Californians for Pesticide Reform rally at state EPA headquarters	Slow Food Nations conference in Denver
July 14-15	**July 16-20**	**July 16-24**
Fall armyworm workshop for east Africa	11th European Conference on Precision Agriculture	International Conference of La Via Campesina

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 7-9, 2017
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2017 9:02:32 PM

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Atrazine Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Weekend monitoring highlights included the Center for International Environmental Law publishing a report claiming a trade deal between the EU and Canada (CETA) would threaten EU member states' ability to effectively regulate pesticides. The report highlighted how the EU and Canada differ on substances considered hazardous, including atrazine.

For a more extensive compilation of recent atrazine-related items, **click here**

New developments

Report: Center for International Environmental Law report claims EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement threatens EU and Member States' ability to effectively regulate pesticides; notes EU and Canada can differ on substances considered hazardous, including atrazine

Commentary: Oregon Organic Coalition chair's op-ed in Oregon newspaper advocates embracing organic agriculture to ensure more sustainable farming opportunities; claims would-be organic farmers can't afford to risk contamination from atrazine, glyphosate by corporate landowners

Commentary: Natural News' Mike Adams promotes his new mini-documentary on liberals' "progressive science contradictions," highlights how liberals say pesticides are dangerous to human health while denying atrazine alters sex expression and feminize organisms

News release: Regional Parliament of Veneto, Italy announces Regional Council Pentastellato introduces motion to complete census of wells for pollutants, including for atrazine, endocrine disruptors

News: Argentinian news source reports Inta Biological Resources Institute study finds pesticides in 8 out of 10 captured fish in Pergamino basin; notes study found little detection of the herbicides tested (atrazine and acetochor)

More atrazine items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the atrazine debate.

Events calendar

See where atrazine 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

Global biotechnology highlights included a report that Syngenta settled a lawsuit with a Nebraska farmer. Media reported Australian researchers are developing a GM banana for Ugandans.

- *Bloomberg* reported Syngenta settled a Viptera-related lawsuit with a Nebraska farmer, but a law professor said the settlement might not have implications for other cases. Meanwhile, *The Progressive Farmer* reported trial dates have been set in seven other states. **See more**
- *Newsweek*, *Xinhua*, the *Australian Broadcasting Corp.*, and other media reported researchers from Australia's Queensland University of Technology developed a vitamin A-fortified GM banana to meet nutrition needs in Uganda. The project has been financed by the Gates Foundation. **See more**
- International media reported the Vatican announced that GMOs are acceptable as ingredients in Eucharist hosts, but the wafers cannot be 100 percent gluten-free. **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: Western Producer reports Canadian ag groups want federal government to cancel registration of GM alfalfa, test all imports of US-grown alfalfa seed, have all GM alfalfa field locations made public 'so farmers can protect their fields and crops until all GM alfalfa varieties are taken off the market'

News: Canadian news site reports Prince Edward Island Green Party leader accuses agency, AquaBounty of "regulatory acrobatics" in GE salmon facility approval; says change in plans should require new environmental assessment

News: Agri-Pulse reports on USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's approval of release of GE diamondback moths for trials in upstate New York cabbage fields, with goal of decreasing moth population, highlights opposition from Center for Food Safety and Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

Commentary: Natural Blaze contributor voices concern about Canadian Cancer Society's assessment that nearly one in every two Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, highlights correlation between increased cancer rates and increased GMO consumption

Commentary: UC Davis animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam criticizes letter signed by 45 Berkeley scientists in opposition to food evolution documentary, noting most of them haven't seen it, also criticizes article by Zen Honeycutt against the film, taking issue with her claims about misogyny

Commentary: Kevin Folta writes for Medium, laments anti-GMO response to shipment of 150 tons of corn seed to Haiti by Mexico's CIMMYT, notes the seeds are not even GM as activists claimed, explains how the incident demonstrates ways in which opposition to GMOs can hurt people

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines myth that there are no long-term safety studies on GMO safety, notes the only studies demonstrating harm have been rejected as flawed, lists several studies showing no adverse health effects, summarizes what various regulatory agencies require

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Ugandan government determined to pass biosafety bill through Parliament to safely use biotechnology to help alleviate poverty

News: Zimbabwe news site reports Vice President's wife urges food processors to avoid GMOs, claims GM food causes "adverse health" problems

Interview: Nigerian news site The Nation questions NABDA director Lucy Obagdu, who says GM crops could help Nigeria produce enough food to feed itself and to export

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies CNBC's coverage of collaboration between Dow Chemical and Chinese government to educate the public on safety and importance of biotech foods

Video: Agriculture expert V.R. Kaundinya delivers TEDx talk in India on role biotech crops can play to adjust to climate change and growing populations, believes they can offer solutions to environmental problems, important to provide cheap food options for future population

Commentary: Activist writes in The Hindu op-ed that GMOs have "unintended effects," cause long-term problems such as cancer, claims glyphosate is endocrine disrupter

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Oxitec amplifies National Institute of Public Health and the Environment's findings that GM mosquito poses no risk to human health or environment, supports safety conclusions from France's High Council for Biotechnology, Brazil, and U.S. regulatory agencies

News: French news site reports University of Florida researchers get grant to develop cow that will adapt to higher temperatures during global climate warming

News release: Luxembourg ag minister awards Steven Druker the "Luxembourg Peace Prize for Outstanding Promotion of Environmental Peace;" Druker claims biotech companies "ignore risks and scientific facts" with help from USDA

News: Food Ingredients First reports final decision on GM maize authorizations for cultivation lies with EU Commission President Juncker, after member states failed to reach a consensus over the past decade, highlights Friends of the Earth Europe food campaigner Mute Schimpf's call on Juncker to reject them outright

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Paraguayan news site contributor says Trump administration threatens to take countries to WTO if they do not abide by science on GMOs; says it's curious for a government who rejects science regarding global climate change

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes La Jornada op-ed, amplifies Nature Methods article claiming CRISPR causes unintended mutations, says gene editing can be used to create weapons of mass destruction

News: Mexican news site reports activists accuse Mennonite communities of planting GM soy illegally, using pesticides, claim the actions damage organic honey and contaminate the water

Commentary: Biodiversidad warns pulp, paper industries pushing for GE tree commercialization, but have bad effect on local communities by making droughts worse due to high volumes of water usage and are highly flammable

Commentary: Scientist Mary Mangan criticizes Non-GMO Project's opposition to CIMMYT's seed program for Haiti, noting they lied about the seeds being GM, she tweets several of their major clients to inform them that Non-GMO Project can't tell GMO from non-GMO

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Newsweek reports Australian scientists with Gates Foundation funding have created vitamin A-fortified GMO bananas that 'could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children' in Africa each year; researchers hope their bananas will be grown by Ugandan farmers by 2021

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports vitamin A-enriched genetically modified bananas, funded by the Gates Foundation, being grown in Uganda by Queensland researchers hoping to save thousands of children's lives in East Africa

News: New Zealand news outlet reports JR Simplot applying for approval from FSANZ to export products made with GM potatoes into Australia and New Zealand; Soil and Health Association of New Zealand opposes application; FSANZ assessment found GE potatoes safe

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 highlights included an announcement that a European Commission committee will discuss GM soy products. African Centre for Biodiversity published articles based on a seed policy meeting with other NGOs. Indian news outlets continue commentary and reporting on GM mustard commercialization.

- The European Commission appeal committee announced it will meet Wednesday (July 12) to discuss commercial approval for products containing GM soy. Meanwhile, the EU Green Party and French NGO Inf'OGM expressed dissatisfaction with the commission's approval of the import of five GM crops. **See more**.
- The African Centre for Biodiversity published several articles on seed sovereignty after it co-hosted a seed policy meeting with the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Program. The event featured discussions by Third World Network members and the Seed Freedom Movement, and it could be a sign of future advocacy and active campaigning. **See more**.
- The *Tribune News Service* reported a group is organizing a Saturday (July 8) protest against GM mustard in northern India. A group of scientists wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to stop the GM mustard release and investigate how the crop could harm farmers economically. Geneticist M Sivanandham told a news outlet that GM mustard oil is completely safe. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Hawaii blogger defends documentary Food Evolution; says passion for GM papaya is not propaganda and criticizes claims by Marion Nestle

Commentary: Kansas farmer writes Today's Producer op-ed expressing dismay about TV ad for GMO-free pet food; criticizes food processors for perpetuating fears about GMOs in order to sell more product at a higher price point

News: Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting reports federal class-action lawsuit filed by migrant farm workers alleges Monsanto violated fair labor standards; workers helped produce corn in Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri

Commentary: Anti-pesticide blogger Colin Todhunter writes for Global Research, criticizes link between agrochemical companies, the media and governments, amplifies claims about negative impacts of pesticides by former EPA employee Evaggelos Vallianatos, activist Rosemary Mason, and recent UN Rapporteur report

More North America items

Africa

News release: ReliefWeb posts FAO release previewing July 18-20 event in Rome gathering

international experts to discuss how to combat African fall armyworm outbreak

News: South African engineering news site reports Competition Commission orders Dow to sell maize line to third party, register GM crop line in South Africa in order to continue merger with DuPont

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent remarks by Ahmadu Bello University's Dr. Abdulrazak Ibrahim in support of biotech, he noted products of biotech have no negative impact on humans or the environment, highlighted importance to sustainable ag development, boosting production and reducing poverty

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news site claims GM mustard approval "shrouded in secrecy," says it will harm human health, environment, won't profit farmers

News: The Hindu Business Line reports biotechnologist in India confirms oil from GM mustard plants is safe to consume

Commentary: Sri Lankan news site contributor says MOLNAR group tries to radicalize farmers by pitting traditional ag vs. modern ag, depicted as serving capitalists, taking advantage of public fear of GMOs despite high-yielding, low-water consuming, GM crops

Announcement: European Commission releases document summarizing negotiating results of Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan at time of agreement in principle in July 2017, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures chapter will improve predictability in trade without changing standards on hormones or GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM says EU Commission approved GM crops after most member states voted against the products, and EU Parliament opposed them

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance voices opposition to five GMO import authorizations for food and feed use, objecting to lack of support from Parliament or Member States, they call for changes to ensure total transparency in the authorization process

News: Following a heated debate about amendments to the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, Croatian news source reports local parliamentarians stand firmly against the breeding of GMO products in the country

News: German newspaper features Bayer chief executive Werner Baumann and his "tough tests" ahead completing its acquisition of Monsanto

Interview: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts tells Spanish news site NGOs should admit they're wrong about GMOs given 30 years of safe use, stop conflating Monsanto and GMOs, says Europeans fear industrial farms will drive family farms out of business

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports Vandana Shiva asks court to participate in lawsuit against Monsanto's Intacta soy as "friend of the court," wants to testify the GM crop damages environment and human health

News: Ecuadoran news site reports Nobel laureate Richard Roberts says GMOs proven safe through 30

years of use, former Nobel winner says he "finds it criminal" to say GMOs are harmful

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports JR Simplot applies to export GM potato products into New Zealand, notes labeling laws don't require most GE ingredients to be listed on packaging; Soil & Health Association concerned about long-term and cumulative health effects

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 4-5, 2017
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 9:01:19 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 highlights for Tuesday and Wednesday included approval of genetically modified corn and cotton varieties by the European Commission.

- The European Commission announced it approved five varieties of GM corn and cotton. The commission gave a green light to a cotton strain developed by Monsanto and another by Bayer, plus maize strains developed by Syngenta and Dow AgroSciences. **See more**.
- A *Legal Newsline* commentary noted the jury's verdict in favor of Kansas farmers, who accused Syngenta of negligence for releasing its Viptera seed before Chinese approval, essentially requires companies "to indemnify farmers against the actions of Chinese regulators." **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: Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies Kent Messer's recent article in Delaware News Journal on role of fear in motivating consumer decisions, arguing fear-based labels do more harm than good, Messer calls for transparency and truth in GMO labeling

Commentary: Garden Culture contributor criticizes FDA's GMO consumer outreach campaign, arguing tax dollars shouldn't be used for "pro-industry propaganda," believes it doesn't matter if GMOs are scientifically safe because they are unnatural and not "normal"

Commentary: Science writer Jeremy Cherfas criticizes recent paper by Kevin Folta on shifting focus in plant breeding to consumer desires such as increased flavor, notes many breeders already work closely with chefs and consumers, believes the paper is "fundamentally reductionist"

Commentary: Quartz contributor examines challenges ahead for Amazon's new grocery venture, highlights growth in organic industry, although supply is not keeping up with demand, Maggie Monast of Environmental Defense Fund notes Amazon's purchase of Whole Foods may give farmers more incentive to shift to organic

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports on Ag Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett's warning that maize yields could drop by 20-25 percent due to fall armyworm invasion, Bayer East Africa donates Sh10 million in pesticides to help combat the pest, which Bayer's Eric Bureau noted threatens food security and farmers' incomes

News: Kenyan ag secretary says maize production could drop by up to 25 percent this year due to fall armyworm, asks for chemical companies to consider huge discounts for small farmers in speech where

he received $10 million in farm chemicals from Bayer to combat the pest

News: Ugandan news outlet reports Parliament again defers debate on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, due to need for further consultations, according to deputy speaker Jacob Oulanyah

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: India Department of Biotechnology announces study indicating GM rice developed by National Institute of Plant Genome Research can improve uptake of natural phosphorous from soil, reducing need for artificial phosphorus fertilizers

News: The Times of India reports research finds pink bollworm develops resistance to Bollgard-II Bt cotton in several cotton-growing states; central government asked by state ag official for "clear set of guidelines" to deal with situation

News: The Hindu reports Telangana police director announces creation of 16 task force teams to curb food adulteration in state, includes plan to strengthen seven existing forces against spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides

News: Indonesian news site reports CropLife Indonesia Chairman Midzon Johannis says crop biotechnology benefits include improved output, crop recovery, durability, higher vitamin levels, and pest and disease resistance; Johannis adds biotech crops are useful to maximize existing land

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson criticizes letters from Intellia Therapeutics and Editas Medicine regarding Nature article on unintended mutations in CRISPR mice, points to other studies demonstrating off-target effects, argues scientific studies should not be retracted based on impact on companies' bottom lines

Commentary: French news outlet contributor voices opposition to GMOs, claiming biotech companies developed sterile seeds to force farmers to buy new seeds each year, claims arguments about feeding the world are propaganda, criticizes President Macron's support of CETA, which he argues will pave the way for GMOs

Commentary: Spanish anti-GMO NGO Ecologistas en Accion responds to recent criticism by University of Valencia professor J. M. Mulet Salort, who accused the group of "ecoterrorism," defends their actions against GM field trials to prevent cross-pollination

Report: Social Science Research Network paper proposes moderate GMO regulations post-Brexit, argues that while UK should not deregulate GMOs to the extent the US has, it should adopt more moderate rules than the EU, allowing it to take advantage of growing GM crop market, especially GM wheat

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news source reports Vandana Shiva appears before country's Supreme Court to testify in effort by NGO to block Monsanto's Intacta GM soybeans; Shiva calls for public hearings to hear opinions of independent experts on GMOs

News: CropLife International profiles plant biologist developing biotech sugarcane resistant to sugarcane borer and Brazilian sugarcane farmer as part of #foodheroes series

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on plans by environmental collective "Transgenic Free Ecuador" to file suit regarding unconstitutionality of recently passed seed law, highlights the group's claims about

negative impact of GM crops on soil health, pollinators and other beneficial insects

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on dairy industry frustrations as GM high-energy ryegrass and virus-resistant clover have still not been released after nearly 20 years of research due to public opposition to GMOs, they have potential to boost milk production by 25 percent, and earn farmers up to $750 extra per hectare

News release: GE Free NZ warns "alarm bells ring over threat of GE trees", claims GE eucalyptus tree nurseries owned by ArborGen are "direct threat" to ecosystems and biodiversity; criticizes government for "lack of accountability"

News release: New Zealand's Soil and Health Association, an organic membership group, warns GE potatoes "set to sneak into our food"; criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand for approving "every single application for GE food lines", notes GE potato application open to comment until July 7

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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Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 7:00:28 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 monitoring featured limited activity, particularly as the United States observed its Independence Day holiday.

- University of Florida scientist Kevin Folta posted a blog responding to critics who have claimed the "Food Evolution" documentary is propaganda. Folta highlighted a letter recently co-signed by 45 individuals who called themselves "experts" and suggested it is wrong to refer to science as propaganda because it invalidates the "authentic representation of science" and impugns scientists who participated. He also noted critics of the documentary have been unwilling to engage in a constructive dialogue despite his open invitation. **See more**
- Media outlets including the Xinhua news agency provided ongoing coverage of a recently published study detailing the potential of a genetically modified purple rice that would be rich in antioxidants and potentially reduce the risk of cancer. **See more**

Due to the Independence Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Wednesday, July 5. Please visit the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

Commentary: Horticulturist Folta takes "experts" to task for calling documentary "Food Evolution" propaganda, says he has a problem with calling science propaganda as it impugns integrity of scientists involved and harms application of technologies that could be helpful to people and environment

Commentary: Hoosier Ag Today president Gary Truitt argues Bayer's purchase provides opportunity to "deep-six the Monsanto brand" and give activists a less visible target to smear, also suggests pulling dicamba commercials

Commentary: AlterNet contributor lists 10 most contaminated foods to throw out, includes bagels containing glyphosate from desiccated or GM grain, in addition to produce on EWG's Dirty Dozen list

More North America items

Africa

Report: International Food Policy Research Institute releases Global Food Policy Report highlighting progress in food security and nutrition, as well as a commitment to sustainable development

News: Kenyan news site reports scientists say Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa Plus disease-resistant and nutritionally-enhanced cassava varieties present opportunity to address country's food crisis; can be available to farmers in about three years

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network sends email blast informing subscribers US EPA has been called on to begin monitoring synergistic effects of pesticides following inspector general's report

News: Xinhua reports Chinese scientists have created a GMO purple rice that is rich in antioxidants and has the potential to 'reduce the risk of cancer and other ailments'

Commentary: Arguing GMO food is taking over the market despite "many dangers to health and environment," consultant writes piece in India Today to favorably highlight local family's 2.5 acre "natural farm" where indigenous vegetables are cultivated; claims new GM seeds needed each year

News: Vietnam News Agency reports Chinese scientists create GM purple rice with anthocyanin compounds noting health benefits of reduced risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes; researchers intend use GM technique to produce nutrients for medicine

News: Indian news site reports scientists plan limited open field tests of GM self-limiting mosquitoes to fight mosquito-borne diseases after Aedes Aegypti mosquito responsible for dengue and chikungunya outbreaks has survived fumigations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Austria's Der Standard highlights importance of CRISPR technology; notes uncertainty in regulation, use in organic farming; mentions low consumer understanding, role of media in shaping public opinion

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico-based Excelsior reports conservationists in Cancun blame Mennonite communities' use of pesticides and non-organic fertilizers on transgenic crops for damaging organic honey

Commentary: Venezuela's TeleSUR piece by La Via Campesina reps addresses G20 Summit in Germany this week; criticizes G20 agricultural policies as bad for peasant farmers globally; claims GM crops risky; asserts farmers' rights to manage seeds

Commentary: Mexico's El Economista news site features Monsanto's work on GM crops to feed growing population; quotes Monsanto reps on importance of technology to secure food supply, farmers see benefits of reduced costs, reduced use of pesticides, fertilizers

Interview: Speaking with Argentinian news site, activist Vandana Shiva blasts industrial agriculture; blames Roundup, Roundup Ready soybeans for epidemic of cancer; claims Monsanto attacks patent laws, national sovereignty through seed patents

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments during today's monitoring of Oceania. Please click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 3, 2017
Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 4:02:49 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A long-awaited European field study examining the impact of neonics on bees in the United Kingdom, Germany and Hungary was published this week, attracting headlines claiming the pesticides "decimate" bee colonies. As Jon Entine and Henry Miller point out in articles published in this week's newsletter, what the media - and the study's authors - ignored was that 97 percent of the data points in the research showed no impact on honeybees.

Other pieces question U.S. funding of the Ramazzini Institute and its "dubious science," argue that conventional farmers should be praised instead of vilified by organic industry marketing interests and advocate for the use of biotechnology in Zambia.

In the What's Trending section, you'll find links to recent coverage and stakeholder activity related to the proposed Waters of the United States revocation, tomorrow's possible committee vote on the European Commission's proposed criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals and a new study on CRISPR techniques.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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: Genetic-ID

Genetic-ID played a key role in creating the U.S. and international markets for Non-GMO labeled foods.

Based in Fairfield, Iowa, the company has deep ties to the quasi-religious Maharishi movement and its wide array of for-profit organic, natural and alternative health

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: Claims by authors of Centre for Ecology & Hydrology study, media unsupported by research data

Ron Arnold: Trump administration, Congress must prevent Ramazzini Institute's "dubious science" from influencing agriculture policy

David Zaruk: Farmers deserve to be thanked, not vilified by organic industry as "irresponsible and dangerous"

Julie Kelly: Average Americans would be hurt by Tom Colicchio's idea to subsidize expensive organic food that lacks health benefits

Science Codex questions methodology of Purdue University study built around idea of neonic "death cloud" lingering for 12 hours

Andrew Porterfield: Monarch butterflies threatened by climate change, drought and predators - despite NGOs' focus on glyphosate

Henry Miller: Neonic study researchers ignored 97 percent of data showing no impact on bees

Zambia Daily Mail: Biotechnology is a "game-changer" in president's

business interests. Genetic-ID's founder, John Fagan, serves as a "raja" for food purity in the movement's global government for world peace.

Genetic-ID's founding marketing director was Jeffrey Smith, the promoter of Maharishi yogic flying who later went on to help lead anti-GMO advocacy and mandatory labeling campaigns.

Genetic-ID is a key business partner with the non-profit Non-GMO Project whose buttertly embossed seals, based on Genetic-ID backed certifications, now festoon thousands of products in U.S. supermarket aisles.

To learn more about Genetic-ID, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

national development plan

Joseph Perrone: Anti-glyphosate groups benefiting financially from California campaign to list glyphosate as carcinogen

New Zealand entomologist: Each country should make own policy on regulating neonics; Australia, New Zealand correct to avoid ban

Leah Dorman: Empathy plays key role in communicating science on responsible antibiotic use

Calestous Juma receives Breakthrough Institute's Paradigm Award for thought leadership in biotechnology

American Council on Science and Health releases "Little Black Book of Junk Science"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Commission's latest proposal to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals set for July 4 vote

European neonic field study conducted in U.K., Germany, Hungary stirs debate after producing mixed impacts on bees

University of California-San Diego study shows CRISPR can be used without off-target effects

Associated Press report indicating EPA chief met with Dow CEO before chlorpyrifos ruling draws ire of NGOs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency moves to rescind Obama administration "Waters of the United States" rule

Calendar highlights

July 3-4	July 4	July 6-8
Plant genome editing and genome engineering conference (Vienna)	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed considers EDC proposal	CGIAR Kenyan conference on impact of investments in agricultural research
July 8-12	**July 9**	**July 11**
International Conference on Biotechnology and Agriculture Engineering	Apiculture New Zealand national conference	European Food Safety Authority webinar on next generation sequencing (NGS) in GMO applications

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal

Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 30-July 2, 2017
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2017 10:34 56 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 monitoring highlights over the weekend included the Uganda Parliament reintroducing a biotechnology and biosafety bill, and Malawi seed companies urging the government to adopt GM crops to increase farm yields.

- The Ugandan Parliament brought a biosafety bill to the floor more than three years after it had been tabled. The Science and Technology Committee submitted two reports after two Parliament members disagreed with the majority report recommending the bill. **See more**.
- *Capital Radio* in Malawi reported seed companies urged the government to approve GM crops to allow for more trade within the African continent. The country has completed field trials for cassava, bananas, cowpeas and cotton. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: EconoTimes contributor examines growing number of Americans that don't trust scientists on issues such as GMOs, a problem that is worsening with social media, highlights New York University's Division of Medical Ethics founding director, Arthur Caplan's belief that scientists can improve communication

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse reports on USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's publication of 30 questions to facilitate drafting of GMO labeling requirements, criticizes recently passed law as ineffective, reproduces question list

News: Agri-Pulse reports on Ag Secretary Perdue's recent visit to China to promote resumption of beef trade, as well as to ramp up pressure on country's need to reform its biotech approval process, Syngenta's Michel Demare hopes China will make the necessary reforms now that ChemChina has acquired the company

Commentary: Arthur Caplan and Kelly Folkers of NYU write for Time magazine, they explain why GE mosquitoes would be a safe, effective way to combat spread of diseases such as zika, they lament that public fear of GMOs is hindering use of the technology to save lives

Commentary: Moms Across America founder Zen Honeycutt writes for Alternet, criticizes Food Evolution documentary, claims the filmmakers failed to honor their agreements and took her statements out of context, argues it ignores the truth of mothers who have witnessed their children's health improve by avoiding GMOs

Commentary: LA Times contributor Kenneth Turan describes the documentary "Food Evolution" as "persuasive rather than political" as it discusses the GMO controversy; notes the film may not change minds, but will cause you to consider how you decided on your position

Commentary: GLP contributor Andrew Porterfield says it will take 'more than a village' to feed the world; makes the case that a combination of high-tech, GM and organic methods is the key to dealing with global hunger

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune journalist counters argument by scientist Ify Aniebo that GMOs are not tested for safety, notes scientists have observed its safe use over several years and verify no unsafe toxins exist in GM food and are the same as non-GMO counterparts

Commentary: AATF's Evelyn Situma notes Kenyans are turning to drought-tolerant maize to fight poverty; says good farming practices and access to high-yielding, drought- and disease-resistant varieties will boost productivity, incomes and sustain Kenyan farmers' livelihoods

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's reiteration of need for biotech regulation, noting the purpose of NBMA is to ensure that biotech is not misused and to protect human health and the environment

News: US government's Feed the Future program reports on recent media training workshop in Malawi entitled, "Journalism Ethics in Agriculture: Avoiding Fake News"

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Parliament's resumed debate on Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012, Science and Technology committee presented two reports, the first of which supported the bill, noting several GM trials are in advanced stages, the minority report raised concerns about cross pollination

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: The Indian Express notes protesters gather to oppose GM mustard, other biotech crops, op-ed claims Bt cotton's "ill effects on ecology are for all to see;" demonstrator says they have "right to demand safe food"

News: Indian news site Business Standard reports seed companies such as Monsanto want India to continue licensing plant breeders

News: Agri-Pulse reports on Ag Secretary Perdue's recent visit to China to promote resumption of beef trade, as well as to ramp up pressure on country's need to reform its biotech approval process, Syngenta's Michel Demaré hopes China will make the necessary reforms now that ChemChina has acquired the company

News release: President of Indian seed industry group Seedsmen Association, Shri A.S.N Reddy, emphasizes differences between India's Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPVFR) act and the Indian Patent Act (IPA), which does not allow plants, varieties and seeds to be patented, argues PPVFR potects breeders and farmers' rights

News: Agri-Pulse reports ChemChina, Syngenta have goals for change in light of completion of acquisition, including push into Asia-Pacific markets, but also share plans to keep some things the same

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French science radio program examines "the end of GMOs," pointing to data indicating that GM crop adoption rates are down, claims they have not lived up to promise of ending world hunger, the program features experts in plant genetics and agronomy

News: Reuters reports BASF to consider buying seed assets that rivals are putting up for sale to win antitrust approval for mergers, saying bargain prices could persuade the German company to overcome reluctance to expand into the seeds industry

News: German news source reports on new European rules for animal and plant patents; says loopholes still exist from which "mainly large corporations profit"

News: French news source reports local judge relaxes fines against Confederation Paysanne militants for protest last July in front of Monsanto factory

News: Politico Pro EU reports on Bayer's formal request for EU approval of its $66 billion takeover of Monsanto, the EU's Competition Commission has until August 8 to decide whether to approve the deal or open an in-depth inquiry, environmentalists and petitioners call on Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to block it

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Yucatan state legal counsel, Carlos Pavón Flores' statement that Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) must issue resolution in September declaring Yucatan as a GE-free zone, voicing confidence that arguments presented are sufficient

Commentary: Guatemalan news outlet contributor highlights benefits of organic farming, claims GMOs will fail to increase yields as effects of climate change worsen, believes organic foods are more nutritious, and that GMOs carry potential health risks

Commentary: Op-ed by ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro in La Jornada amplifies Nature Methods study showing unintended mutations from CRISPR-Cas9 use; Ribeiro says existing bio-security rules insufficient for the technology, and "only sensible" approach is to not allow release of any GE organism

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Alana Mann of University of Sydney and Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance writes for The Conversation, claims industrial ag practices such as using GMOs and pesticides are not sustainable, amplifies recent UN rapporteur report on pesticide use

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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Date: Thursday, June 29, 2017 9:02:39 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included a study that shows improvements to CRISPR methods can prevent unintended mutations. Chem-China-Syngenta executives want to double the company's size. A Nigerian biotech official was charged with financial fraud.

- A University of California-San Diego research team published a study revealing how changes to CRISPR mechanics improve genome-splicing technology so it doesn't yield "off-target" effects. The research comes after the *Nature Methods* study finding CRISPR can cause unintended mutations, and it may address industry and consumer concerns. **See more**.
- With the merger finalized, ChemChina-Syngenta executives are discussing plans for the company's biotech sector. Syngenta's new chairman, Ren Jianxin, told the Asian news site *Nikkei Asian Review* that the company wants to double in size and is considering acquisitions in the seed sector, adding that it sees India and Africa as major growth markets. **See more**.
- *News Agency of Nigeria* reported that Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission arrested National Biotechnology Development Agency director-general Lucy Ogbadu on fraud charges. According to reports, about N23 million (about $73,000) was allegedly illegally diverted to Ogbadu from the Bayelsa State Director of Bio-resources Development Centre. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: UC San Diego research team has identified myriad structural changes that activate and drive CRISPR-Cas9, with goal of providing a framework for designing a more efficient and accurate genome-splicing technology that doesn't yield "off-target" effects

Commentary: USRTK publishes "Hall of Shame" profile on Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine, calling him a "central player" in agribusiness PR campaign on GMOs, pesticides; highlights Entine's defense of atrazine, Syngenta feud with Tyrone Hayes, Monsanto-sponsored boot camps

Commentary: Cultural critic for California news site notes "Food Evolution" doesn't address "many injustices committed by Monsanto," but does present convincing argument for biotech, how anti-GMO movement may prevent positive outcomes from GM products

Report: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report recounts proceedings of recent Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable, with focus on mistrust of science, keynote speaker Shawn Otto pointed to rising objections to GMOs and vaccines in spite of lack of evidence of harm

Commentary: Joan Conrow points out hypocrisy in anti-GMO activists' criticisms of Food Evolution documentary, noting activists frequently spread information that is "unfair, unbalanced and deceptive," amplifies Kevin Folta's blog post criticizing Marion Nestle's reaction to the film

Commentary: Karen Batra of Biotechnology Innovation Organization criticizes Danone's "One Planet. One Health." campaign, noting that plans to eliminate GMOs runs counter to goals of sustainability, pointing to several environmental benefits of the technology, and emphasizing consensus on safety

Commentary: New York Times "Okja" review says film portrays issue of the food industrial complex and protests against factory farming and genetic engineering "through a callous, utilitarian lens, as sources of food"

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya's Mediamax reports farmers in Nakuru dealing with new potato pest even as maize growers continue to fight armyworm attacks; agriculture extension officers told farmers to spray Ortran pesticide to contain the worms

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on arrest of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Director-General Lucy Ogbadu over alleged N23 million fraud

More Africa items

Asia

News: Chemical & Engineering News reports Syngenta plans to expand into emerging markets, particularly China, following ChemChina deal; aims to strengthen its number three position in the global seeds business and increase investments in yield-improving crops

Commentary: Nepalese news outlet contributor highlights importance of intellectual property rights, arguing that ag innovation is key for increasing productivity and food security, points to challenges of farmers' rights and access to new agro-biotechnological innovation and seeds in Nepal

News: Indian news outlet reports on farmers organization Kheti Virasat Mission's (KVM) launch of state-wide campaign against Punjab government decision to allow second-stage field trials of GM maize, KVM also opposes GEAC's approval of GM mustard

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Okja director Bong Joon-ho tells BBC no one has proven GMO safety; notes Okja's physical appearance gives a nod to the controversial GMO debate

News: Politico reports EU Patent Office decides to no longer grant patents on common obtained by an 'essentially biological breeding process;' notes the decision will make it harder for large agri-businesses to patent common vegetables

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site says despite federal government attempts to get around beekeepers' legal challenges, claims evidence shows pesticides used with GMOs damages human, environmental health

News: Latin American Press reports illegally cultivated GM corn in Bolivia threatens to contaminate native varieties

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports WA Parliament member asks state government to create fund to compensate farmers who lose organic certification due to GM canola contamination

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 28, 2017
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 11:31:09 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 monitoring highlights included the U.S. Department of Agriculture soliciting comments on GMO labeling. Canadian NGOs urged the Prince Edward Island environment minister to reject a facility to grow GE salmon. Malawi seed companies say they want to sell GM seed. An Indian state government approved a GM corn field trial.

- The USDA published 30 questions to solicit comments from stakeholders to inform the public on its GMO disclosure rule. The questions inquired whether consumers would prefer certain technologies or labeling formats. A USDA official told trade media the rule is moving forward but noted a July 2018 due date presents an aggressive timeline. **See more**
- Canadian environmental groups are calling on Environment Minister Catherine McKenna to halt development of an AquaBounty facility to grow GM salmon in Prince Edward Island. Activists claim the fish could contaminate the wild fish population. **See more**
- Seed companies in Malawi are asking the government to approve GM crops because they believe biotechnology will help improve farmers' yields. The nation has completed field trials on GM cassava, bananas, cow peas and cotton. **See more**
- An Indian news site reported the Punjab state government approved a multinational corporation to conduct second-stage field trials of GM maize. Some farming groups opposed the decision, claiming GMOs are detrimental to human health and threaten the natural gene pool. **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: Henry Miller writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines ways in which Russia uses anti-GMO activists to undermine US biotech and science, highlights assessment that both US Right to Know and Russia oppose US technology for financial gain, points to ties between Ronnie Cummins and RT

News: Reuters reports U.S. ambassador hopes China will approve more varieties of GMO corn for import after Dow, Monsanto strains approved

Announcement: Moms Across America announces debut of its first film, "Communities Rising," examining the threats of GMOs and pesticides, thanks contributors and urges supports to watch and share

News: Georgia news outlet reports on recent University of Georgia Plant Center symposium where Food Evolution director Scott Hamilton Kennedy appeared as a guest speaker, UGA plant biologist Jim Leebens-Mack echos Kennedy's hope that the film will help increase public understanding of science behind GMOs

News: Washington Post reports NAS report to take on "future of food," to feed 9 billion people by 2030 by overcoming climate change, lack of water, other obstacles; report is due before farm bill expires

More North America items

Africa

News: South African ag news source reports sustainability NGO Hivos re-ignites debate over GMOs in Zambia by advising consumers to shun the foods, notes criticism of Zambia in 2002 when country refused international GMO food aid during famine

News: Zambia Daily Mail reports Cotton Development Trust eager to begin confined trials for GM cotton, but Biosafety Act must be amended and trust will need to set up institutional biosafety committee and implement awareness effort to overcome potential obstacles

Commentary: Nigerian blogger accuses Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Monsanto of intentionally introducing maize pests in Nigeria to force farmers to adopt Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) GM maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports Chinese scientists created GM purple rice that can reduce the risk of certain cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic disorders; notes previous attempts to engineer "anthocyanin production" in rice have failed because the underlying biosynthesis pathway is highly complex

News: Reuters reports U.S. ambassador hopes China will approve more varieties of GMO corn for import after Dow, Monsanto strains approved

Commentary: Op-ed in Calcutta Telegraph argues India's farmers should get an opportunity to express their opinion on GM crops; suggests something needs to be done before the new seeds "cause another spate of farmers' suicides"

Interview: Monsanto China president Yong Gao tells Nikkei "sharp increase" in R&D spending ahead after Bayer's acquisition, believes China will become dependent on imported corn as its production declines; expresses concern about social media spreading bad information on GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: "Okja" director Bong Joon-ho tells French news outlet that his lawyer told him not to say multinational Mirando in his film alludes to Monsanto, says armed militiamen are "inspired by real patrols financed by some companies"

Interview: Dutch news site questions "Okja" director about the movie, says size of genetically modified "monster pig" symbolizes corporate greed

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentina-based Diario Panorama describes "Okja" film as satirical parable about capitalism that contrasts pure nature with all-powerful Wall Street

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian agribusiness consultant argues farmers risk falling behind competitors without

investments in R&D; notes potential biosecurity risks include incursion of Varroa mites that could devastate bees

News: New Zealand farming publication reports U.S. field trials are underway on New Zealand-based AgResearch's GM ryegrass designed to cut urinary nitrate leaching and reduce methane emissions; company believes grass could be available to farmers in 8 years

Study: Australian Academy of Science presents decadal plan for agriculture, notes Australia must embrace ag innovation, including genetic engineering, but must work to educate public that biotech applications are mutually beneficial

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9 01:29 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 monitoring highlights include plans for a meeting in Europe on plant breeding patent law, a U.S. product recall related to non-GMO status and a new study on the development of antioxidant-rich rice.

- On Wednesday (June 28), the 38 contracting states that make up the European Patent Office will meet in The Hague to discuss the future interpretation of existing prohibitions in European patent law on the breeding of plants and animals. The NGO No Patent on Seeds believes the current proposal contains too many loopholes that will increase in the number of patents granted on conventional breeding and submitted a letter to the office demanding changes to the policy. **See more**
- Target has announced plans to pull Hampton Creek products from its shelves. noting some may be mislabeled as non-GMO. The decision last week continues to generate discussion among food and organic industry news outlets. **See more**
- A Chinese government-funded study published in *Molecular Plant* identifies new genetic engineering approach capable of delivering multiple genes at once, which researchers successfully used to develop antioxidant-rich purple rice. The study was amplified today in a *Daily Mail* article noting the research could help reduce the prevalence of certain chronic disorders, including cancer. **See more**
- In advance of its streaming release Wednesday, the Netflix-produced film "Okja" is receiving international attention. News outlets, including *Salon* and *Gizmodo* published reviews of the film, highlighting its anti-meat and anti-corporate messages and comparing the fictional company in the film to Monsanto. Additional global discussion is likely following the film's release. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Natural News contributor claims new documentary "Food Evolution" is latest "chemical industry propaganda" branded as science; claims Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine is behind project, who functions more as "corporate PR campaign for biotechnology companies like Monsanto"

Interview: Food Tank interviews vice president of NGO A Growing Culture, who believes smallholder farmers can increase biodiversity through regenerative farming practices, launching #IStandWithFarmers videos to change way world views smallholder farmers

News: Delish reports Target being cautious by removing Hampton Creek food products, some of which were supposedly improperly labeled as non-GMO; Hampton Creek says they're confident the non-GMO products are properly labeled

Commentary: New Jersey film reviewer suggests while film Okja is not for children, it's "definitely a treat" for anyone with deeply held concerns about genetically modified organisms, factory farms or animal welfare

Commentary: Bayer research manager questions why foods made with biotechnology cannot also be

organic, believes plant breeding methods like gene editing can improve seeds for organic food production

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health president notes U.S. Right to Know blogger trying to discredit Neil DeGrasse Tyson for narrating "Food Evolution," highlights University of Minnesota professor's presentation explaining how parasites, not trace levels of neonics, are bigger issue for honeybee health

Event: American Council on Science and Health to release new book, "Little Black Book on Junk Science," at National Press Club news conference (June 29)

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports OFAB scientist believes GM rice modified to tolerate salt could be beneficial to Nigerian farmers who are unable to compete with prices from imported rice, current rice suffers low yield from insect and pest infestation

Review: Land Use Policy publishes analysis concluding Africa cannot reap the same level of benefit from the Green Revolution as Asia, cites case studies on efforts to increase rice production in Ghana

Report: USDA GAIN Report predicts GM Gypsophila cut flowers may be first commercial GM products in Kenya given plant's "non-controversial nature" in terms of food and environmental safety; application submitted to National Biosafety Authority for open field trials/environmental release

Commentary: IFPRI reports senior researchers from Environment and Production Technology Division provided technical training to economists and graduate students from several African nations who collected data for Rapid Economic and Environmental Assessment component of Programs for Biosafety Systems; data will be used for "ex ante economic and environmental assessment" for at least 10 priority GM crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Economic Times reports U.S. asks India to reduce trade obstacles in negotiations to increase trade engagement, cites India's labeling rules for GM foods as among the onerous conditions imposed by the country

News: The Hindu reports Japanese researchers have found external application of vinegar can prepare plants to better fight droughts; researchers claim finding allows for "less expensive way to impart drought tolerance than genetic modification"

News release: Researchers with RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science use newly discovered biological pathway to induce greater tolerance for drought-like conditions "simply by growing plants in vinegar"; study leader says "less expensive technologies" must be developed because GMO plants not always available

News: Local news source reports former ICAR Director at India's National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources urges Punjab Agricultural University students and scientists to "use hidden potential of plant genetic resources"; says genetic diversity essential for improving crop productivity

News: Korean news outlet reports on recent emergency debate held by Representative Yoon Soh-won with subject, "Emission of genetically engineered oilseed rape and solution plan"

More Asia items

Europe

News: Anti-GM German news site reports Kansas court says Syngenta must pay nearly $218 million to U.S. farmers in Viptera lawsuit; Syngenta "rejected the allegations" of sales losses and plans to appeal

News release: German NGO No Patents on Seeds criticizes European Patent Office's proposed changes to rules on plant breeding patents, claiming loopholes will lead to expanded patenting of plants and animals, arguing there is no clear distinction in the proposal between conventional methods of breeding and GE

News: German news outlet reports on reactions to European Patent Office's planned changes to plant breeding patent rules, under which GMOs will remain patentable as before, highlights opposition from Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bauernlicher Landwirtschaft (AbL) and "No Patents on Seeds"

News release: French anti-GMO group Faucheurs Volontaire (Volunteer Reapers) call for support of 15 members on June 29 court date for "dangerous parking," noting it is a good opportunity for a reminder of need to oppose all GMOs and imports

News release: Luxembourg government says following unanimous vote by Chamber of Deputies opposing GM corn cultivation, country asked European Commission to oppose GMO cultivation; government will maintain GMO cultivation ban in Luxembourg, control them more effectively

Study: Swiss anti-GMO NGO shares research indicating CRISPR-Cas9 much less precise than previously assumed, says researchers Columbia University showed genetic system not only intersects at desired site in genome, but can trigger hundreds of unplanned mutations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Local news source reports city of Loja, Ecuador joins effort to prevent entry of transgenic seeds and crops; leader of the Agroecological Network of Loja calls transgenic products "monocultures" that increase use of toxins and pesticides

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Gizmodo Australia writer reviews "Okja", finds movie forces viewers to rethink humans' relationship to animals and how people will lie to protect their own interests, Netflix release on June 28

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 9 04:54 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 monitoring highlights included reporting on a study that found unauthorized genetically modified bacteria in a vitamin B2 feed additive and ongoing reaction to the "Food Evolution" documentary premiere.

- A March study in *Food Chemistry* that identified unauthorized genetically modified bacteria in a vitamin B2 feed additive was highlighted in a piece on Independent Science News, noting this type of feed contamination is illegal in Europe. **See more**
- The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to generate online activity and stakeholder response. Today, Marion Nestle announced she will block all future comments on her blog after receiving 870 comments from "GMO trolls" in response to her post about the documentary. Institute of Food Technologists past president Colin Dennis spoke about the film with *Food Manufacture* magazine in advance of the NGO's annual meeting starting today, which features a screening of the film. **See more**
- Coverage of Danone's new "One Planet. One Health" sustainability initiative included comments from CEO Emmanuel Faber that the company is weeks away from transitioning its Danimals yogurt smoothie line to non-GMO. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Hawaii farm blogger applauds "Food Evolution" documentary as true story of biotechnology instead of "just propaganda" as anti-GMO activists claim; notes planned showing July 12

Announcement: Cornell Alliance for Science reports Breakthrough Institute gives Paradigm Award to Harvard professor Calestous Juma for work, thought leadership in biotechnology

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield reports monarch butterfly population decline due to factors such as climate change, droughts, and predators; not primarily because of glyphosate as Center for Food Safety argues

Interview: Food Manufacture interviews Institute of Food Technology past president Colin Dennis about Food Evolution documentary, he hopes the film will encourage positive dialogue on importance of sound science in the global food system

Commentary: Live Science contributor touts recent advances in fight against ten diseases that "demonstrate CRISPR's capabilities"; highlights work of several California labs trying to harness CRISPR technology to tackle citrus greening

Commentary: CropLife Media Group senior online editor highlights risks of planting non-Bt corn to manage costs; notes Bt technologies offer cost-effective and proactive protection, quotes Dow AgroSciences' Brad Hopkins who says planting corn without Bt technology "may seem like a good decision on paper, but farmers should consider what that could mean for their operation during the

season"

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Lecturer at Catholic University of Eastern Africa writing in Daily Nation claims Kenyan government needs to approve GM corn to help provide resistance to armyworm pests, environmental sustainability through less pesticides, and food security for Kenyans

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Tribune reports activists in India rallied and signed postcards to Prime Minister Modi opposing GM mustard and pesticides; movement carried out under the name "Sarson Satyagrah" plans rallies regularly

News: The Hindu reports GMO-Free India official Kavitha Kurugante says state governments should "assert their views" in GM mustard debate as they will be "bearing the fallout" of Union government's decision on GM crops; Kurugante claims public consultations on issue "have been farcical" and India is self-sufficient with mustard

News: Feed Navigator reports on Food Chemistry study which identified an unauthorized GM Bacillus subtilis production strain in a vitamin B2 feed additive imported from China, highlights discrepancy with which strains the Chinese manufacturer claimed to be using

News: Vietnamese news outlet amplifies positive growth of biotech crops noted in ISAAA update; agriculture minstry denies report some Vietnam companies imported GM sugarcane varieties for testing

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch news outlet reports Syngenta must pay 7,000 Kansas farmers $217.7 million to compensate for losses caused by Chinese rejection of its GM maize variety, total damage in the US may reach $6 billion

Commentary: Jonathan Latham and Allison Wilson write for Independent Science News, examining German enforcement laboratory discovery of GE bacteria in riboflavin vitamin supplements intended for animal feed use, which is illegal under EU law

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on Draft Food Act which will raise penalties for business operators with products deemed dangerous to human health or that are not properly registered, including fines for food products produced with GM ingredients

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Contributor to Argentina-based Misiones Online says while biotechnology has positively impacted food production, effects of transgenic foods on human health are "not so beneficial"; among other harmful impacts, claims GMOs have led to increased chemical contamination, emergence of new allergies, antibiotic-resistant genes and liver damage

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor speaks out against Monsanto's GM maize, argues that while some GM applications are beneficial, Monsanto's GM maize and glyphosate pose risks to human health and biodiversity, and increase control of multinational companies

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 - June 26, 2017
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 4:04:28 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features new questions about the integrity of the International Agency for Research on Cancer after a deposition revealed it ignored information on the safety of glyphosate in its widely publicized assessment of the herbicide as a potential carcinogen. Articles below question whether the organization can be a fair judge of carcinogens when it knowingly ignores significant evidence.

Following last week's New York debut of the documentary "Food Evolution," a number of news outlets and science communicators have provided favorable reviews - including one by *The New York Times* concluding that GMOs "may be a force for good." Another premiere is planned in Los Angeles this week. If you're interested in hosting a screening, click here.

Other articles examine Sri Lanka's glyphosate ban, the potential of biotechnology in Nigeria and the consequences of spreading unfounded fears about CRISPR.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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 Cornucopia Institute

Created with assistance from Organic Valley, The Cornucopia Institute is a Wisconsin-based that

Stories Worth Sharing

Joseph Perrone: "Severe intellectual dishonesty" afoot in IARC excluding key study on glyphosate safety

Kavin Senapathy: "Food Evolution" documentary combats "information deficit" that leads public to fear GM foods

Brian Darling: Public deserves "accurate judge" of cancer hazards as IARC's credibility comes into question

John Hinderaker: "Astonishing" revelation that IARC official covered up own finding to declare glyphosate unsafe

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: IARC "has some explaining to do" if it excluded key glyphosate safety study because there was "too much evidence"

Veteran U.S. beekeeper: No. 1 enemy for honeybees is the Varroa mite; neonics safer than older pesticide sprays

Rekha Rachakonda: Fearmongering about CRISPR could "prove disastrous" for agriculture, medicine

Steve Milloy: U.S. NIEHS director Birnbaum will continue to feed

advocates for strict adherence to USDA organic practices.

Seen by some as a possible nonprofit front for Organic Valley, the institute frequently engages in public relations campaigns and uses other tactics that end up benefiting Organic Valley. This year, The Cornucopia Institute issued a scorecard on organic dairies that drew attention from The Washington Post and National Public Radio.

It has also been vocal in demanding response from USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to the recent investigation into fraudulent organic imports detailed in The Washington Post. More generally, it regularly amplifies messaging in opposition to pesticides, GMOs and rBST.

To learn more about The Cornucopia Institute, CLICK HERE.

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"chemical alarmism" as long as money keeps flowing her way

Owen Roberts: Canadian honeybee population continuing to rise, although Varroa mites still pose a problem

Keith Kloor: To be successful, "Food Evolution" needs to create more "good faith conversation" about GMOs

Chandre Dharmawardana: Sri Lanka glyphosate ban "completely unwise," goes against mainstream scientific view that it is safe

Deepak Pental: Indian government should approve GM mustard if it "has guts"

Canadian newspaper recaps biotechnology boot camp at University of Guelph, "Food Evolution" screening

Lucy Ogbadu: Biotechnology can change traditional farming, ensure food security in Nigeria

U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho: Public needs more information on GMOs shown to be safe by Nobel laureates

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What's Trending?

European Parliament committee votes down proposals objecting to neonics ban

Kenya to consider GM maize field trials

Arkansas plant board moves to ban dicamba amid ongoing complaints about drift damage

U.S. court orders Syngenta to pay Kansas farmers $217M in class-action suit over Viptera corn

Environmental Working Group files lawsuit seeking release of documents on U.S. chlorpyrifos decision

Calendar highlights

June 25-28	June 26	June 27-29
Institute of Food Technologists' IFT17 conference	European Food Safety Authority bee health symposium	U.S. Water Alliance One Water Summit
June 29	**June 29**	**July 3-4**
European Commission to release new antimicrobial resistance plan	European Food Safety Authority pesticide peer review experts teleconference on glyphosate	Plant genome editing and genome engineering conference (Vienna)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:55:15 AM

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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 monitoring highlights over the weekend included a jury awarding $217.7 million to farmers in their case against Syngenta.

- News services and international media reported a jury awarded 7,000 Kansas farmers $217.7 million in the first verdict against Syngenta in lawsuits over the release of its Viptera variety before it was approved by China. Syngenta officials said they plan to appeal the decision and that it will harm farmers as companies will be forced to delay releasing new, innovative products. **See more**.
- Commentary on the "Food Evolution" documentary continued as the film debuted Friday in New York. *The New York Times* film critic Daniel Gold wrote that it "posits an inconvenient truth for organic boosters." A University of California-Berkeley agroecology professor and the Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell called the film "propaganda," while Keith Kloor wrote in *Slate* that while the documentary's science is sound, he doubts it will change people's minds. **See more.**
- The Kenyan news site *Daily Nation* reported that Parliament members are seeking controlled field trials of GM maize and Kenyan scientists want to begin a field trial on a GM maize resistant to a common stalk borer. MPs noted Kenya's GMO ban does not apply to research. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: CBC reports Prince Edward Island environment minister approves two GMO salmon facilities; PEI Salmon Council opposes decision without national review of GM animals, fearful decision sets precedent for more GM animals

News: Ag Information Network reports on recent discovery that IARC did not consider Agricultural Health Study data which found no association between glyphosate and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and ag groups' criticism of USDA's proposed changes to biotech regulatory framework

Commentary: Organic farmer writing in Nevada newspaper sees nothing wrong in GM foods, but objects to unsustainable corporate ag system that forces farmers to survive economically by using GMO seeds, pesticides that poison soil, water

Video: Molecular biologist Nina Fedoroff gives TED Talk on potential ways of controlling Zika, notes insecticides have not proven very effective in preventing its spread, she promotes use of biological controls, highlighting Oxitec's GE mosquitoes, she laments opposition in the US

Commentary: Organizer for Indigenous Environmental Network's Save Our Roots campaign to stop GE trees writes for EcoWatch, claims GE eucalyptus trees will negatively impact the environment and indigenous communities, advocates application of Precautionary Principle

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports anti-biotech group expresses "palpable fear" of GMOs to National Assembly, notes scientists believe GMOs have positive effect on environment, government set up National Biosafety Management Agency to protect against harm from biotechnology

News: Zambian news site reports Dutch development group HIVOS concerned about Zambians buying GMOS rather than "healthy foods," blames "unhealthy food" for diseases

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on severe maize losses in Nakuru county due to fall armyworm invasion, farmers Hamish Grant and Mary Njoki are counting losses, as pesticides have proven ineffective due to resistance

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM notes U.S. trade rep uses "weapon of science" to open Chinese market for GMOs, notes market disruption due to Chinese delay in approving Viptera; questions if US will use same tactic with EU

News: India news outlet amplifies Jayson Lusk's National Bureau of Economic Research working paper stating GE corn could lead to better output, also more likely to mitigate risks from weeds and insects based on 28,000 observations in 800 counties across US

Commentary: PeerScientist contributor notes while the impact of the CRISPR revolution cannot be overstated, any attempt by the vocal anti-science crowd to 'regulatorily hobble' CRISPR products 'could prove disastrous' not just for agriculture but for people with untreatable conditions

Commentary: Ranjit Devraj of Science and Development Network writes for AsianScientist, examines ways in which release of GM mustard has been hindered by opposition from scientists, activists and politicians, highlights developer Deepak Pental's assessment of potential yield advantages

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Indian news outlet, criticizes 2017 Budget's allocation of Rs 10 lakh crore for agricultural credit, claiming it will be used to push farmers further into debt by encouraging purchase of GM seeds and associated chemicals from multinationals, speaks out against GM mustard

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech notes German ag ministry to discuss new breeding techniques, notes US exempted gene-edited mushrooms without assessing the product, claims CRISPR often produces unintended changes in plant, animal genomes

Commentary: German news site profiles Marc Van Montagu early GMO scientist, views on opposition to GMOs; Van Montagu says GMOs have potential to fight malnutrition, end slavery in Africa, South America; says GM technology separate from monopolies

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM points to data indicating recent drop in applications for GM field trials in the EU, with only 61 applications filed between 2013-2017, voices concern about CRISPR applications, highlights Spain's research on GE tobacco plants

Commentary: Inf'OGM contributor reports on "hidden" GMOs in France and Europe due to mutagenesis, says impossible to know how may hectares cultivated with rape and sunflower

Campaign: Review of two visions of opposition to GMOs in Switzerland posted by StopOGM Switzerland; struggles "very divided", one side focusing on "counter-expertise, information and lobbying", other side

denounces pacification and focus includes "various clandestine actions"

Campaign: NGO Inf'OGM reports on anti-GMO protests in Belgium, headquarters of Flemish Institute of Biotechnology "remains the main target of a movement that is firmly rooted in the condemnation of technocratic innovation policies"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports agricultural chamber group says producers call for country to reactivate Biosafety Committee to resume GMO debate; group says by not using GM crops that fight aggressive pests, Bolivia suffers low productivity and loses opportunities for new markets and more jobs

Commentary: History professor analyzes proposed changes to Argentina's seed law on Biodiversidad en América Latina y El Caribe, says multinationals pushing for law based on "extractive model"

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 monitoring highlights included discussion on Amazon buying Whole Foods, commentary on the "Food Evolution" documentary, and NGO Corporate Europe Observatory criticism of the European Commission for encouraging and approving biotechnology industry mergers.

- Amazon's purchase of Whole Foods generated GM and organic food discussion. Natural News repeated a rumor that Jeff Bezos plans to turn Whole Foods into a "GMO retailing hub," claiming Bezos is "100% pro-Monsanto" and pro-GMO. *Politico Pro* reported University of California's Glenda Humiston urged U.S. House of Representative members to invest in organic and sustainable agriculture research, claiming the deal means organic food prices will skyrocket. **See more**.
- Coverage on the "Food Evolution" documentary included a *Business Insider* piece on the film segment on how a Cornell scientist saved the papaya industry with genetic engineering. Kevin Folta responded to Marion Nestle's claims she wanted her comments in the film to be cut after she saw how they were used. Folta also promoted the film in his "Talking Biotech" podcast by interviewing the film's director, Scott Hamilton Kennedy, and UC-Davis' Alison Van Eenennaam. **See more**.
- Anti-biotechnology NGO Corporate Europe Observatory featured an article stating the three large agribusiness unions will negatively impact farmers, wildlife, biodiversity, and food prices, but rather than discourage the mergers, the European Commission encourages them. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Henry Miller and Robert Wager in Journal of Commercial Biotechnology respond to activists about molecular genetic engineering advancements beyond herbicide-tolerant crops

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes for CounterPunch in opposition to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), claiming it will result in "corporate hijack" of Indian agriculture, highlights IP controversy surrounding Bt cotton, and rise in farmer suicides

Commentary: Joseph Perrone of Center for Accountability in Science writes for Hawaiian news outlet, argues recent Reuters article uncovers "severe intellectual dishonesty" in IARC's review of glyphosate, notes glyphosate is inexpensive, effective and less harsh than alternatives

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association newsletter promotes lawsuit against Sanderson Farms over natural label, petition; promotes regenerate campaign, local efforts to ban Roundup, protect pollinators; claims factory farming "a filthy business, fueled by Monsanto's endless stream of contaminated GMO animal feed"

Commentary: Researchers in Journal of Commercial Biotechnology say China is missing out on biotechnology advantages, recommend country clarify contradictory regulations and speed up development of GM technology for more competitive international trade position

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Calling biotech "game-changer," Zambia Daily Mail editorial says launch of Seventh National Development Plan, with emphasis on economic diversification, will place agriculture at "heart of the matrix"; calls on policymakers to implement President Lungu's push for science and technology to accelerate agriculture's contribution to GDP

News: Kenyan news outlet reports over 1.9 million acres of maize crops in 40 counties are affected by fall armyworm attack, assistant director of Agriculture, Stanley Kipkoech delivered 1,700 liters of pesticides to Nakuru farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Associated Press reports food exporters, including US, EU, Japan and Australia, are "stepping up pressure" on China to scale back food import controls; notes requirement for each food shipment to have inspection certificate from foreign government adds to complaints Beijing reducing market access

Commentary: Philippines business news site contributor notes GMOs have a 20-year safety record, seen as solution to feed growing population during global climate change, and are supported by USDA, WHO, AMA

News: In response to unconfirmed reports claiming a company was "importing GM seeds," Jordan news agency Petra is reporting Jordanian Agriculture Minister Khaled Hneifat says GMO seeds will not be allowed into Kingdom

News: The Times of India reports Vandana Shiva urges farmers to develop seed banks instead of buying from corporations because GM crops are hazardous to farmer health, Shiva also calls on government to ban multinational companies from selling seeds and fertilizers

News: The Economic Times reports with GM mustard decision pending, Mahyco Hybrid Seeds Company executive Usha Zehr says India government's approach toward GM technology "more emotion-based" than fact-based; Zehr cites case of Bt cotton falsely blamed for farmer suicides

News: Vietnamese news site says people favor organic food because they don't use genetic modification, pesticides, other chemicals, claims those things can harm human health and organic food is healthier

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Food Safety Authority announces publication of supplementary guidance on allergenicity with goal of strengthening risk assessment of GM plants, with consideration for new scientific and regulatory developments

News: Local news source reports Luxembourg urges EU to oppose GMOs, sends letter to the EC confirming its rejection of authorizations for GM maize varieties

Announcement: EFSA Journal publishes supplementary guidance on specific topics for allergenicity risk assessment of GM plants

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports that since Monsanto no longer will sell GM soy, Mexican farmers opt to

plant regional variety but say GM soy is more profitable due to fewer inputs to fight weeds

News: Ecuadoran news site reports farmers, agricultural groups protest against change to law that allows GMO research in Ecuador, says citizens' health should be priority

News: Brazilian news site report fast-tracked GM sugarcane approval causes prosecutors to examine potential conflicts of interest at biotech agency CTNBio; notes conflict of interest clause not yet adopted

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 monitoring highlights include expectations that U.S. trade representatives will press for a streamlined approval process for biotechnology in NAFTA discussions with Mexico, and will press for more GM crop approvals from China. Commentary continued on the *Nature Methods* article on CRISPR causing unintended mutations. The Food Evolution documentary, narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, will premier in New York on Friday. Vandana Shiva said there will be a nationwide protest in India over GM crops.

- *Reuters* reported that during NAFTA discussions with Canada and Mexico, U.S. trade reps are expected to seek a more streamlined approval process for biotech products. **See more**. *Politico* reported that U.S. trade rep Robert Lighthizer told a Senate committee that the U.S. is pressing China to approve six pending biotech crop varieties, noting China agreed to a 100-day action plan set to end July 16. **See more**.
- Intellia Therapeutics, a company focused on curative genome editing treatment for diseases, responded to the *Nature Methods* article on unintended mutations in CRISPR/Cas9 mice, pointing out flaws in the study design and data analysis. *Retraction Watch* concluded the issue raises questions on how critics and authors should engage with ideas as they develop. **See more**.
- The documentary "Food Evolution" continues to generate commentary, including a blog post by Marion Nestle, who criticizes the documentary as GMO propaganda, and said she asked the filmmakers to remove her comments from the film. The documentary's producers announced the New York premier scheduled for Friday. **See more**.
- *Press Trust of India* reported Vandana Shiva said the Indian government allows multinational companies to introduce toxins in the form of GMOs. Shiva also said there would be a nationwide protest against GM crops on Aug. 15. **See more**.

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North America

Campaign: Over 100 US ag and farming organizations sign letter to Ag Secretary Perdue, highlighting shortcomings in USDA's proposed revisions to biotech regulatory framework, voicing concern that regulation of breeding process regardless of risk will hinder innovation

Commentary: March Against Monsanto contributor calls out Kavin Senapathy for claiming Non-GMO Project labels are "meaningless" in Forbes article; believes Senapathy is one of many ghost writers Monsanto hires for its Let Nothing Go campaign to sway public opinion on GMOs

Interview: U.S. Rep. Dr. Ted Yoho talks about GMO misconceptions with Southern Farm Network Today colleague Tony St James; Yoho notes over 100 Nobel laureates did retrospective study concluding "GMOs are safe," emphasizes one cure for citrus greening in his home state of Florida "is going to be a GMO"

Campaign: Global Justice Ecology Project amplifies sign-on campaign asking USDA stop commercial approval of GE eucalyptus plantations; highlights eucalyptus fires in Portugal and Chile as rationale for stopping US plantations

Commentary: Writing in Huff Post, Ecojustice activists promote NGO's participation in federal review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, note committee agreed to NGO's recommendations for national drinking water standards, EDC regulations, transparent GMO assessments

Commentary: Kevin Folta praises 2016 documentary "Food Evolution," calls it "fact-based response to the avalanche of misinformation" that "has penetrated social ranks through the internet, but also through art and film"

More North America items

Africa

News release: ACBio warns field trials for Dow's herbicide-tolerant, GM maize underway in South Africa, claims there will be environmental and human health consequences

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on three-day workshop by African Agricultural Technology Foundation with journalists, researchers and government officials from five African countries; workshop aimed to "enhance skills, capacity and knowledge to journalists to effectively report on agricultural biotechnology issues"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on remarks at ag forum by Lucy Ogbadu, Director General of National Biotechnology Development Agency; she asserts biotech's potential to ensure food security, improve nutritional quality of food, and minimize pesticide use

More Africa items

Asia

News: Financial Express reports India's authority for protection of plant varieties is set to dispense with requirement of a no-objection certificate (NOC) from patent-holders for use of their genetically modified traits; notes move may "trigger fresh litigation" and plant trait patents of companies like Monsanto may be "rendered hollow"

Commentary: Public policy and sustainability professor writing in The Hindu says government needs more transparency in regulatory process, adding country's current apprehension about GM crops partially due to safety tests conducted by same parties applying for commercialization

Interview: Deepak Pental, catalyst behind GE research for seeds and plants in India, tells BM BusinessWorld "ball is in the court of the government" and if it "has guts" it will approve GM seeds

News: India news outlet reports Food Safety Standards Authority of India establishing regulations making it mandatory for companies to label products containing GMOs; regulations expected to be ready in "a couple of months"

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico Pro EU's morning ag news roundup reports on EFSA's push to adopt new rules for independence of scientific experts, upcoming European Patent Office meeting to discuss Commission objections to patent rules for seed breeders, and Parliamentary environment committee's vote on neonics

News: UK's Financial Times reports China's demand for meat likely to make soybean most widely cultivated crop in US

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports landowners claim Mexico's environmental protection agency PROFEPA harasses community forest companies that use sustainable practices but does little to stop illegal deforestation caused by illegal logging and GM soy cultivation

News: Bolivian news site reports NGO Probioma notes four samples in markets identified as glyphosate-resistant GM maize, although it was allowed temporarily; ag chamber president says farmers will ask for continued access to improved seeds due to good yields

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto will not sell GM soy seed in Mexico; notes it did not sell GM soy in municipalities where the Supreme Court had forbidden its cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: European-based potato trade news site reports FSANZ approves GM potato lines for Australia, New Zealand; calls GM product "as safe as its conventional counterpart"

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9 04:57 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 monitoring highlights included:

- A *Politico Pro* report suggested the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the Food Marketing Institute's SmartLabel program is a likely solution to the federal GMO labeling mandate, arguing the groups' initiative to enroll 34,000 products by year's end will make a stronger case to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. GMO labeling was the topic of an op-ed published by the editor of *Food Processing*, who argued that regardless whether you love the initiative, a reversal of the labeling mandate would frustrate consumers and return the debate to the state level. **See more**

- Several stakeholders shared their comments on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposed policies on gene-edited animals and plants and the USDA biotechnology regulatory rules. Among them, a coalition of anti-biotech groups submitted comments claiming the FDA should not approve any new GE animals while the lawsuit over its handling of GE salmon is pending. The Biotechnology Innovation Organization also published its comments, recommending new plant and animal varieties developed using genome editing applications that offer a more precise way of cross-breeding should not receive different policies than varieties developed with traditional breeding methods (**see more**). American Farm Bureau Federation and other ag organizations are urging USDA to revamp its biotechnology regulations, saying "major changes" are needed to ensure innovation is encouraged. **See more**

- The European Food Safety Authority issued a draft policy on agency independence, which addresses input from its public consultation, including Corporate Europe Observatory's conflict of interest report. The agency rejected the European Parliament proposal to change the definition of conflict of interest, which prompted CEO to issue a response voicing disappointment. EFSA is expected to vote on the revised independence policy tomorrow.**See more**

- The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to generate online commentary. Forbes contributor Kavin Senapathy praised the documentary for bringing together science of agriculture, plant breeding with the psychological, social and moral context of the GMO debate. Meanwhile, Natural News' Mike Adams called the film a propaganda piece and pledged to publish critical profiles of its participants on his new website, FoodEvolution.news. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: American Sugarbeet Growers Association praises "refreshed" GMOAnswers.com website; says improved platform will better serve consumers in many ways, including use of enhanced search functionality to enable visitors to find answers to most-asked questions

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for AG Daily, dispels myth that only organic farmers care about biodiversity, points to several environmental benefits of GMOs, which enable no-till conservation systems

Commentary: Student contributor to LA Times High School Insider touts Environmental Media Association-Clover Sonoma partnership to engage small-scale communities about "food justice" and

"dangers of GMOs in food production"; highlights group's "It's Up To Us" PSA staring Jordana Brewster, Carter Oosterhouse, Amy Smart and Baron Davis

Commentary: Mercola argues subsidized factory farms and industrialized agriculture harming environment, health of Americans, responsible for increases in chronic diseases and pollution, asserts CAFOs harm lung function of neighbors; he touts agroecology to ensure food security, protect human health and environment

News: The Progressive Farmer reports legal experts believe court's granting of recent motion filed by Syngenta attorneys in ongoing Viptera trial "does seem significant" and could "limit punitive damages"

Campaign: Institute for Responsible Technology email promotes "How to Get Roundup Out of Your Community" webinar as part of campaign against glyphosate; notes IARC classification of the herbicide as "probably carcinogenic;" IRT's Jeffrey Smith to discuss GMO health risk at July 3 summit

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Natural Blaze contributor criticizes New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition's (NAFSN) work in Tanzania, accusing the program of colonialism, objects to changes in Tanzania's seed law that would criminalize traditional seed exchange

News: Nigerian news site reports nation's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development "cleared air on public fear" against GMOs, saying ministry only adopts use of hybrid seeds "not GMO"

Commentary: University of Pretoria science professor writes op-ed in Kenyan news outlet, says Kenya's path to food security is through biotechnology, adds "politicians had better learn and provide leadership for technological change"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Food Navigator Asia reports India Food Safety and Standards Authority intends to make it compulsory for food manufacturers to disclose details of GM ingredients; notes regulator also set to launch "food safety index" with each state judged on enforcement of food laws and consumer awareness of related issues

Interview: Former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramanian tells The Hans India Bt cotton has ruined the country's crop diversity, wants GM mustard disallowed due to impact on health and biodiversity

News: South Korean news outlet reports on discovery of illegal LMO rapeseed and concerns the seeds will spread, adds long-term impact on human health and environment is "not certain"

News: Indonesian news outlet reports country experiencing a land crisis, highlights CropLife Indonesia and how biotechnology can maximize current land space with more efficient pesticide use and improved yields

News: Financial Express reports India's Maharashtra state government asks for verification Monsanto's Bollgard-II Bt cotton is resistant to pink bollworm after farmer complaints

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity reports Kuwait acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on June 1

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: John Innes Centre joins Alliance to Accelerate Crop Improvements in Africa to help fast-track scientific advances achieve food security and to work with small-scale farmers on continent using new technologies

Commentary: Slow Food research director Cinzia Scaffidi suggests cheap foods, tidy fields rendered by glyphosate use on GM crops are not worth environmental, human health costs; seeks support of anti-glyphosate citizens initiative

News: German ag news site reports Green party releases platform for Bundestag election, announce organic farming as "guiding principle," stress desire to ban neonics, glyphosate, reduce pesticide use, genetic engineering

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y El Caribe amplifies declaration from IV International Congress of Socio-Environmental Health in Rosario, Argentina; corporate agriculture blamed for environmental devastation and hunger and for turning farmers into "corporate slaves"

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor speaks out against rise in anti-science views against GMOs and vaccines, and in defense of homeopathy, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, accuses Greenpeace of ideologically poisoning the West, thus preventing developing nations from accessing technology

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand-based professional food microbiologist John Brooks tells readers not to be so quick to reject transgenic food; notes human body contains "many foreign genes" and says some vegetable crops are "naturally transgenic"

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports on Australian Academy of Science's strategic plan for next decade of agricultural science, plan includes better engagement with public on acceptance of GM crops

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 monitoring highlights included:

- Today was the last day for comment on proposed changes to U.S. biotech regulations. *Politico Pro* amplified the American Soybean Association's praise of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposal regarding products produced from geneediting and criticism of proposed changes to noxious weed rules. Center for Food Safety and Friends of the Earth issued a joint release announcing almost 100,000 people and 65 environmental, farm and consumer groups submitted comments to USDA and the Food and Drug Administration regarding proposed changes to biotech regulations, claiming the new rules will result in weakened oversight. *Politico* reported it is uncertain what lays ahead once the USDA reviews the comments. **See more**
- An Italian news agency is reporting that MEPs are developing a resolution promoting production of GM-free soy in Europe. Agriculture ministers could sign it during meetings July 17-18. **See more**
- *Mint* reported the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is working on final GM food labeling guidelines. **See more** Meanwhile, the Parliamentary sci-tech standing committee is requesting the National Institute of Nutrition conduct a comparative analysis of the nutritional values of GM and non-GM sorghum, using samples from a variety developed by samples of the crop developed by the Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Millets Research. This may signal sorghum is the next GM crop up for consideration after mustard. **See more**
- The Brazilian Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is set to vote Wednesday (June 21) on the House GM labeling bill, which would allow producers to omit GM labels on products containing less than 1 percent GMOs. One of the committee senators was quoted saying GM foods are "a reality for over 15 years" and there is no proof GMOs "cause direct harm to human health." **See more**

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North America

Video: After receiving a letter telling him that hundreds of his petunias would have to be destroyed because they were GE varieties, Missouri Farm Bureau president posts video in which he touts the benefits and safety of genetic engineering, and its safety, and violently destroys the plants

Commentary: Washington law firm partners argue disclosure of GMO-derived ingredients or rBST-fed milk cows "unrelated to curing deception" does not get a First Amendment pass; sellers forced to disseminate a negative message are "prevented from shaping their own market communications"

Commentary: Contributor to Insider Monkey blog says while some ingredients in beer, including GMOs, might give consumers the "heebie-jeebies," GMOs are "not as bad as the internet wants us to think"; notes genetic modification allows scientists to create more resilient crops with better yields

News: Public News Service reports Wisconsin agricultural institute is developing corn seeds "to help farmers who want to grow organic corn"; research director notes "one of the biggest challenges is developing seed that will resist contamination from cross-pollination" with GMO corn

Commentary: Response to "Food Evolution" on Food First blog signed by list of academics and others calls documentary "a piece of propaganda" manufacturing scientific consensus; says funding from Institute of Food Technologists constitutes conflict of interest, adding science abused to "mislead corrupted regulators and citizens" about GM crop safety

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports civil society group, New Initiative for Credible Leadership calls on federal government to support research, development of biotechnology, genetic engineering to bring country out of recession, support food security

Commentary: President of Africa Arise for Change Network praises NABDA director general for allowing the agency to embrace biotech, argues those who share President Buhari's "Change Agenda" deserve the support of the private sector to "explore greater depths of biotechnology at NABDA"

Commentary: Daily Monitor contributor amplifies Crop Biotech Update noting farmers urged Tanzania's government to hasten GM approvals to save them from crop failure; says "we also have similar issues in Uganda" with GM solutions to potato, banana, cassava and maize diseases, but laments farmers can't grow the crops due to biosafety bill delay

News: Rwandan news source reports government has prioritized agriculture as "main driver towards achieving the country's development goals"; highlights importance of biotechnology to improve productivity and food security

Video: Stephen Greenberg of African Centre for Biodiversity speaks at Food Systems of the Future public talk, objecting to privatization of knowledge in agriculture, such as intellectual property and seeds, and arguing that large-scale, centralized systems are not necessary for food security

News: Namibian news outlet reports senior Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) official advocates continent adopt biotechnology to help farmers and increase yields; official says GM crops have potential to drive Africa's industrialization but regulatory hurdles need to be decreased

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes new report entitled "The GM maize onslaught in Mozambique: Undermining biosafety and smallholder farmers," raises concerns about changes in Mozambique's biosafety legislation to allow for GM maize field trials, claims it will make traditional seed exchange illegal

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports anti-GM coalition sends letter urging environment minister to reject GM mustard claiming it is not safe, beneficial or needed; activists allege testing, appraisal, clearance processes were fraudulent

Commentary: India environmental magazine notes end of Monsanto Bt cotton in Burkina Faso, guidance from farmers in India to record declining crop quality; claims farmers in India paid more for seeds, required more pesticides; asserts Burkina Faso case will make GM adoption harder in neighboring countries

Commentary: In The Quint, Society for Hunger Elimination founder calls for approval of GM mustard in India while not hesitating to withdraw the crop "if there are defects"

Commentary: GM Free India asks minister of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to get biosafety feedback from state governments and independent experts before making final GM mustard decision; claims crop does not offer yield superiority and glufosinate is unsafe neurotoxin

News: The Indian Express reports parliamentary panel questions need to develop GM sorghum, requests comparative analysis of nutritional values of GM and non-GM varieties

News: Mint reports Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working on final GM food labeling guidelines; notes while companies are not currently required to declare presence of GM ingredients in food items, "a lot of imported processed foods have GM items"

News: Indonesian news station reports on CropLife Indonesia event in Jakarta; officials highlight biotechnology's potential to improve agricultural output and help country reach food self-sufficiency while using less farmland

Campaign: GRAIN calls for members to join campaign against Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between 16 Asia-Pacific countries; warns land will be grabbed, seeds privatized, GMOs may proliferate, pesticide use increase

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Testbiotech claims agrochemical and biotech companies have too much control over EFSA risk assessment, calls for research funding by companies to be capped and two-year cooling off period for experts to join EFSA

News: Italian news agency reports EU soybean declaration will be brought to meeting of agricultural ministers July 17-18; seeks to reduce dependence on imports, promote GMO-free, organic soybeans

News: German news outlet reports environment minister believes CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing kits could potentially lead to bacterial infections and is asking German government to immediately halt distribution of kits

News: Agrow reports U.S. EPA confirms approval of Monsanto's GMO insect-resistant RNAi-based MON87411 maize for commercial planting; notes EPA has granted conditional approvals for four commercial products containing MON87411 with expiration dates of June 30, 2022

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Chile biotechnology advocacy group lists 284 technical and scientific institutions that recognize safety, potential for benefit of GM crops; notes majority in Europe where there are greatest obstacles to commercialization

Commentary: Bolivian news site writer reviews recent efforts to effort to expand GMO crops in Bolivia; claims health, social, political, economic, environmental problems in countries with GMO crops and questions influence of industry

Commentary: Latin America news agency writer introduces debate on GMOs from agroecology perspective; notes opposition to biotechnology by "experienced scientists," religious groups, European public

News release: Embrapa, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, researcher wins international Forest Biotechnologist of the Year 2016 at IUFRO Tree Biotechnology Conference; involved in sequencing of eucalyptus genome

News: Brazilian senate reports Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform can vote on House bill allowing producers to not label products containing less than one percent GMOs; committee senator says GM foods "a reality for over 15 years" and no proof GMOs "cause direct harm to human health"; tolerance limit important because almost impossible to guarantee GMO free

More Latin America items

Oceania

Report: Slow Food Hobart publishes report on GMOs in Tasmania, highlights challenges for GMO-free producers in Tasmania presented by new breeding techniques, emphasizes importance of ensuring that GM products are properly labeled

Review: TheReelBits editor calls Bong Joon-ho's science fiction film "Okja" a "rally cry" against mass food production interests; gives film focused on fallibility of GMO "super pig" 4 out of 5 stars, film screened at Sydney Film Festival and releases in U.S. and Australia in August

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 19, 2017
Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 4:04:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

After a showing at a biotech boot camp event earlier in the month, the "Food Evolution" documentary is set for a bigger premiere in New York and Los Angeles this week. Narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, the film explores the science of biotechnology and the thoughts of its supporters and opponents.

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter opens with a review of the film by University of Florida molecular biologist Kevin Folta (it has also received press from Entertainment Weekly). There are also pieces on scientists asking the European Commission president to approve GM maize varieties, a closer look at the PG Economics research on the impact of the first 20 years of genetically modified foods and a new report on questionable tactics by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on 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: Organic Consumers Association

The Organic Consumers Association has drawn criticism in recent days for its controversial funding of the U.S. Right to Know campaign, which targets pro-science academics with Freedom of Information Act

Stories Worth Sharing

Kevin Folta: "Food Evolution" documentary shows anti-GMO movement "willing to bastardize science"

Henry Miller: U.S. should withdraw from UN Human Rights Council over pesticides report based on "delusional musings" of NGOs

Plant scientists ask European Commission president to support approval of three GM maize lines after EFSA found no risk

Graham Brookes: PG Economics report shows crop biotechnology allows farmers to grow more while using less pesticides and land

Andrew Porterfield: Research shows neonics don't deserve to be called "most deadly" pesticides for bees

Josh Bloom: Reuters report on IARC excluding exculpatory glyphosate data shows group's "blatant dishonesty" Part 2

Stuart Smyth: Interference by environmental NGOs delays adoption of GM crops, harming food security, climate and the poor

Julianna LeMieux: Scientists seek edits or full retraction of Nature Methods paper on unintended CRISPR mutations

German university promotes review of papers on impact of EDCs, notes "disturbing trend" of research aimed at influencing policy

campaigns and attacks on their reputations.

The association is one of the most aggressive North American anti-GMO activist groups and also has active campaigns against crop protection products, including glyphosate and neonics. It is among the NGOs involved in this week's planned anti-neonic protest at the Kroger shareholders meeting.

OCA is led by Ronnie Cummins and benefits from donations from many organic and natural products companies, with revenues of at least $2 million to $3 million in recent years.

To learn more about the Organic Consumers Association, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Joe Guenther: Exploring different standards for GMOs, organic classification for grapefruits and potatoes

Hank Campbell: Obama-era revisions to biotech regulatory framework are "food-science policy worth keeping"

U.S. judge rules Arla Foods must stop advertising campaign demonizing rBST with "misleading claim"

Alex Berezow: Study shows plants produce nearly all of the pesticides people consume; only way to avoid pesticides is to stop eating

OFAB's Rose Gidado: Biotechnology proven safe despite propaganda from NGOs intended "to create fear, outrage, anxiety and mistrust"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament votes to ban pesticide use in ecological focus areas

U.S. NGOs ramp up pressure on Kroger to change neonic policy, plan protest at shareholders meeting during National Pollinator Week

U.K. Crop Protection Association report estimates glyphosate ban would cost British farmers nearly £1 billion annually

U.S. comment period on biotechnology regulations set to close

Calendar highlights

June 18-21	June 19-22	June 23
American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference on antibiotic resistance	Biotechnology Innovation Organization international conference	Institute for Future Environments workshop "Debunking myths: Developing communication and engagement strategies for advanced biotechnology"
June 25-28	**June 26**	**June 27-29**
Institute of Food Technologists' IFT17 conference	European Food Safety Authority bee health symposium	U.S. Water Alliance One Water Summit

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 18, 2017
Date: Sunday, June 18, 2017 10:20:31 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

This weekend's global biotechnology monitoring included reports the Trump administration will challenge other countries' regulations restricting GM crop exports. India's new environmental minister will meet with activists before making a decision on GM mustard.

- *Sustainable Farming* magazine reported U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will "attack overseas regulations" restricting GM products from being imported. Lighthizer said the U.S. will bring cases to the World Trade Organization if GM crops are restricted and insist that any barriers be scientifically based. **See more**.
- *The Hindu* reported new Indian Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan will meet over the next month with environmental groups and others opposed to GM mustard commercialization. Previous minister Anil Madhav Dave also met with activists, but died the next day. **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: Dr. Nina Fedoroff writes for Agri-Pulse criticizing USDA and FDA proposals for revising biotech regulatory framework, argues it makes things even more complicated and burdensome, urges readers to submit comments by June 19 deadline

Interview: Marketwatch interviews CRISPR developer Jennifer Doudna, following publication of Nature study demonstrating unintended mutations in gene-edited mice, Doudna voices concern about unintended consequences, especially with gene drives

Commentary: Writing in Huff Post, USRTK's Carey Gillam calls "flawed" Reuters story reporting IARC scientist hid glyphosate study from IARC panel industry propaganda, suggests documents were "spoonfed" to reporter by Monsanto litigators, journalist has tangential ties to industry

Commentary: Natural News contributor criticizes Kavin Senapathy's recent Forbes article against non-GMO Project labels, argues that 3,000 brands wouldn't go to the trouble of having 43,000 products verified if consumers didn't want to know about GMOs in their food, accuses her of being a Monsanto "shill"

News: Agriculture.com reports on Trump administration plans to attack overseas regulations restricting GM crop exports, according to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, noting a top priority is removing trade barriers

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association claims "consumers are winning" fight against Monsanto, cites health-related lawsuits against Monsanto; EPA "refuses" to rule on glyphosate license renewal; EPA investigation of alleged corruption; FDA resumes testing food for glyphosate

Commentary: "Farmer's Daughter USA" Amanda Zaluckyj writes for AG daily, criticizes recent video by organic dairy farm Clover Sonoma featuring B celebrities warning parents against GMOs, highlights

scientific consensus on GMO safety, urges supporters to call Clover Sonoma and complain about parent-shaming

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian online forum contributor writes post on dangers of GMOs in Nigeria, claims the Biosafety Bill will only benefit multinational corporations and not Nigerians

News: Zambia Daily Mail reports Malawi is field testing Bt cotton because the local variety is expensive, requires too much pesticide, harming environment and human health

Commentary: Kenyan newspaper editor warns readers genetically modified wheat "makes it produce radiations" that are unnatural and "damages health," re-posts commentary by Eke Cyprian focused on the "three inherent dangers" with the chemistry of wheat

More Africa items

Asia

News: India news site reports food safety agency plans to label GM food as Environment Ministry considers GM mustard commercialization

News: Bangladeshi news site reports farmer planting Bt eggplant generates high demand because crop is grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers

News: Times of India reports on Vidarbha farmers' shift to cotton following disappointment in poor rates in other ventures, Kishore Tiwari of Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) warned against increasing cotton area, noting pests are already demonstrating resistance to Bt cotton

Study: Household surveys in China show Bt cotton is efficient at controlling bollworms, has not led to secondary pest outbreaks and has benefited both adopters and non-adopters since its introduction 15 years ago

News: China Daily reports on government approval of two new US GM crop varieties for import, Wu Laping of College of Economic and Management at China Agricultural University pointed to mutual benefits, noting it will help meet China's growing demand for grain and contribute to US growth

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on Volunteer Reapers' action in butcher department of Intermarché in Pamiers, with goal of raising awareness of GMOs in French meat, highlights trial regarding vandalism of glyphosate product containers

News: EurActiv reports on Corporate Europe Observatory study which found that 46 percent of European Food Safety Authority panel members have at least one financial conflict of interest with a regulated company, highlights concerns about validity of EFSA's glyphosate safety assessment

Campaign: Friends of the Confédération Paysanne launch fundraising campaign for comic book about "hidden GMOs" aimed at bypassing GM regulations; release planned for end of September during "Semaine Paysannesen"

News: Italian news site reports demand in Europe for non-GM soy is increasing, with Italy accounting for more than half of all soybeans grown on continent

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Autonomous University of Mexico's Dissemination of Science director says scientists in academia, government, industry, civil groups are diligent to ensure GMOs are safe, give benefits with lowest possible risk

News: Mexican news site reports on struggle between activists and agribusinesses over GM crop cultivation, Monsanto official maintains law is sufficient to protect native maize; activist notes lawsuits extend the battle indefinitely

Commentary: Argentinian news outlet contributor examines global concerns about GE trees, highlighting potential negative impact on biodiversity, bees, and indigenous communities

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor calls on Ecuador to embrace biotech research, speaks out against false belief that "natural" is better

Commentary: Latin America Observatory of Environmental Conflicts (OLAC) posts declaration against Chilean forest model and GM trees as part of World Environment Day

More Latin America items

Oceania

Event: Pesticide Action Network-affiliated expert Meriel Watts to give July 4 presentation to Whangarei, New Zealand audience on ways pesticides, industrial chemicals and waste cause harm to human health, environment, waterways

Commentary: South Australian farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, calls for end to GMO moratorium in her state, arguing it has nothing to do with safety, and referring to concerns about corruption of South Australia's green image as "nonsense," highlights several benefits of GM crops

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 15, 2017
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017 9:52:44 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 monitoring included amplification of Corporate Europe Observatory's report claiming nearly half the experts on European Food Safety Authority panels have conflicts of interest. NGOs issued calls to action for members to contact the U.S. Food and Drug Administration urging more strict GMO regulation.

- An article by *Le Monde*'s Stephane Foucart claimed conflicts of interest, as reported by Corporate Europe Observatory, "undermine" EFSA. CEO's report states that 46 percent of the 200 experts serving on 10 panels have "direct or indirect conflicts of interest." EFSA responded that the experts' financial interests are carefully evaluated and that CEO's figures "are misleading." **See more**
- The Organic Consumers Association and Friends of the Earth asked supporters to sign a petition and send a form letter opposing the rollback of regulations for GMOs. OCA asked for signatures by June 19, the close of the comment period on FDA's draft guidance on the regulation of gene-edited plants and animals. **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: Co-director of U.S. Right to Know writes in Huffington Post claiming "Food Evolution" documentary comes off as "corporate propaganda" by focusing only on pro-GM scientists, questions safety of glyphosate and impact GMOs would have on banana wilt in Africa

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies recent PG Economics study demonstrating economic and environmental benefits of biotech, as well as GMO Answers volunteer expert Esther Ngumbi's recent article in Medium examining ISAAA's most recent report

Commentary: GMO Free PA concerned about commercial release of GM sugarcane and effect on environment and human health from PET plastic bottles made from sugarcane ethanol

Commentary: Marc Brazeau of Food and Farm Discussion lab calls for reframing of debate over sustainability of organic vs conventional agriculture, notes impact gap between organic ag and conventional systems employing conservation practices is huge, believes analysis should focus on conservation in both types of systems

News: Honolulu Civil Beat reports on lawsuit by Kauai residents and organizations against the state and Syngenta, demanding that Syngenta stop growing GMOs on public land until it has conducted an environmental assessment

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the

latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: North America media report China approved two new GM crops and renewed 14 other GM crop varieties; planting GM crops still prohibited but U.S. executives hopeful China will loosen restrictions over time

News: Asia-based media report China approved Dow's Enlist GM corn and Monsanto's Vistive Gold GM soy varieties for import, along with renewing 14 other GM crop varieties, approvals are good until 2020, several other varieties will be decided on within the next few weeks

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Russian news site reporter interviews Russian chemist Pyotr Obraztsov, says GMOs are harmless, but journalists report on supposed GMO dangers because it's more interesting than saying they are safe

News: European produce news site reports number of field tests on GM potatoes growing, as US, Spain, and UK experiment with GE potatoes

News release: EU Green Party claims products of new breeding techniques are not as precise as advertised, amplifying recent Nature study demonstrating unintended mutations in CRISPR mice, argues new techniques should not be deregulated when well-suited GMO regulations already exist

News: Italian news site reports soy association official says non-GMO soy cultivation grew 15 percent in Italy over last year, notes room for growth to be self-sufficient

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mayan beekeepers denounce "escalation of violence and harassment" of indigenous communities after the consultation on GM soy cultivation mandated by Supreme Court

News release: Spanish NGO GRAIN and collective of eight Latin American organizations announce release of documentary entitled "Seeds common property or corporate property?" highlights focus on importance of native seeds and negative impact of agribusiness and transgenic seeds

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto official notes GM, hybrid seeds and crop protection products are expensive to bring to market, so company needs long span of success' Inter-American Institute for Cooperation official notes GM crops more expensive for farmer but also have more yield, more profits

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro in La Jornada warns about negative economic, environmental and health impacts of agricultural biotech, fertilizer and machinery mega-mergers; claims "everything indicates" machinery companies will buy "genetic giants" after first round of mergers, aiming to "impose a highly automated agriculture with very few workers"

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 14, 2017
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 9:03:45 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Note: After a temporary outage that blocked access for some users today, the Bonus Eventus Monitoring Portal should be available again. Please notify us if you have any trouble. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Today's global biotechnology monitoring included news that China approved two GMO crops for import and a U.S. poll indicated 69 percent of those surveyed have serious concerns regarding the Bayer-Monsanto merger.

- News sites including *Reuters* reported China approved two new GMO crop varieties for import - Dow's Enlist corn and Monsanto's Vistive Gold soybean - after a recent trade deal with the U.S. In response, Dow announced its Enlist GM corn variety will be available to growers in the U.S. and Canada for 2018 season. **See more**.
- Public Policy Polling published results of a new U.S. poll finding 69 percent of respondents have "very serious concerns" about the Bayer-Monsanto merger, with the majority concerned about increased chemical contamination of farmland and an increase of GMOs in food supply. The findings were promoted by Friends of the Earth, which issued a release arguing the U.S. should take aggressive action against corporate monopolies. **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: In Forbes, Stanford's Henry Miller argues UN special rapporteur criticism of pesticides and genetic engineering "parrots the delusional musings of organic industry-funded NGOs," suggests U.S. should withdraw from UN Human Rights Council

Interview: Speaking to New York City Food Policy Center, Charles Benbrook claims industry uses resources to directly influence research to produce desired outcome; talks GMOs, pesticides, antibiotic use and resistance, water pollution

Commentary: Molecular biologist at American Council on Science and Health highlights scientists calling for edits or full retraction of Nature Methods paper claiming CRISPR-Cas9 technique causing mutations because the paper contains numerous flaws

News: Gizmodo reports scientists are questioning results of paper claiming CRISPR-Cas9 caused thousands of unintended mutations, raising concerns about misidentifying genes, mislabeling genetic defects and sample size; journal considering all concerns before responding,

News: Politico reports FDA has extended compliance deadline for its Nutrition Facts label update; notes decision comes after major food industry interests requested more time, citing GMO disclosure rule to be introduced in 2018

Video: National Academies of Science webcasts discussion of "Science Breakthroughs 2030" study on food and agriculture research, including discussion of plant biology research for the next decade

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: NGO Hivos responds to biotech advocate in Dutch news site, notes Hidde Boersma accuses NGOs of maintaining hunger in Africa by opposing GMOs; says GMOs increase crop yields only temporarily, makes farmer dependent on seed producers

News: Nigerian news outlet reports National Biosafety Management Agency director general refuted claims of GMOs affecting farms; only GM crops are experimental, not on farms

News: Vanguard reports OFAB "debunks" claims linking GMO foods with some diseases; OFAB Nigeria national coordinator says many seek to misinform the public on GMOs and that an effective communication strategy must be based on "scientific facts, not hearsay"

News: Nigerian news outlets report on executive director Nnimmo Bassey telling Health of Mother Earth Foundation stakeholder meeting that plan by GMO proponents would lead to food scarcity, Nigerian dependence on Monsanto, Syngenta and other chemical companies; claims biotechnology not needed to feed the country

More Africa items

Asia

Study: Syngenta researchers in China use CRISPR to delete DNA fragments in Indica rice

News: China Daily reports leading Beijing think tank researchers took tour of Kimberley Farms in Iowa; Chinese delegates sought to learn more about GMO technology and ability to retain young talent in ag sector, among other topics

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Corporate Europe Observatory claims almost half of experts on EFSA panels had direct or indirect financial interest with companies being assessed, wants EFSA not to hire anyone who received money from company evaluated in past two years; notes pesticides panel vice chair has ties to ECPA

News release: Corporate Europe Observatory claims European Food Safety European Food Safety Authority's new independence rules starting June 21 not sufficient enough to deal with nearly half of experts on scientific panels in a financial conflict of interest situation with agribusiness

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: College of South Border members writed Mexican news site op-ed criticizing CIBIOGEM secretary for ignoring "reality of the scientific debate" on GMOs and claiming scientific community is united on biotech safety

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports Australia's competition regulator will not oppose merger between Dow and DuPont due to already planned divestments, regulator undertaking a similar review of Monsanto and Bayer merger

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 13, 2017
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 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 monitoring featured news of potential legislative support for Bt eggplant in the Philippines, an update on U.S. plans to roll out GMO labels and an appeal for the European Commission to approve three GM corn varieties.

- Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry Director Vivencio R. Mamaril indicated that members of Congress are backing legislation that supports planting of biotech crops, which could open doors for the commercialization of Bt eggplant once it finishes field trials. **See more**
- *Politico* reported that a USDA official is anticipating a late fall or early winter release of its proposed GMO labeling rule, creating a tighter regulatory timeline for companies to meet the July 29, 2018, deadline. In related news, the FDA announced today it would push back the July 2018 compliance deadline for its long-awaited update to the Nutrition Facts label, which analysts believe may be a response to industry calls to align nutrition labels with the rollout of GMO labels. **See more**
- A coalition of plant scientists penned a letter to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, asking him approve three GM maize lines for commercial cultivation after the European Food Safety Authority produced a favorable risk assessment. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Founding director of U.S. FDA Office of Biotechnology writing in Wall Street Journal calls USDA decision to destroy GM petunias "gratuitously stupid" since they pose no threat to health or environment, believes degree of regulatory oversight should be proportionate to risk

Video: AgDaily shares "Learn GMO" series discussing differences, similarities between organic and conventional farming; series shows how organic farming uses pesticides, typically made from plants, that aren't always safe; series also explores why GE was left out of organic farming, and how it could help farmers be more organic

Letter to the editor: NAS Committee on Genetically Engineered Crops writes in Chronicle of Higher Education challenging assertions in prior article and refuting claims surrounding conflicts of interest

Campaign: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issues call for nominations for members of an ad hoc committee to examine potential use of biotech for mitigating threats to forest tree health, deadline for nominations is July 31, 2017

News: NPR reports on growing practice of biotech seed piracy, highlights Chinese scientists arrested for trying to bring biotech seeds to China from United States

Commentary: Scientist Sarah Hovinga on Bayer CropScience blog says "it just doesn't sit right with me that false information is out there" about something as important as GMOs; encourages readers to "talk

about the facts, constructively" and provides links to informational sites

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: MintPress News contributor criticizes changes in Tanzania's seed law, claiming the country must embrace seed patents, and criminalize traditional seed exchange, or risk losing foreign development aid, points to ties between New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) and Monsanto

Commentary: Nigerian school administrator on business news site says Nigerians have to be mindful of GMO foods and go "as natural as possible" to ensure children are "not at risk" when they eat

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippines food-focused news outlet reports members of congress support filing legislation to allow planting of biotech crops including Bt eggplant

News: Egyptian news outlet reports Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture claims the country exported non-biotech seeds to nearly 30 countries

Report: Coalition for a GM-Free India publishes report claiming that in the past 15 years of Bt cotton cultivation, yields have stagnated, pesticide use has increased, pests have developed resistance and agro-diversity has declined

News: Asian News International reports Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar criticizes both previous UPA and present NDA governments for promoting GMO seeds, which he claims are "the cause of diseases"

Commentary: Former university law professor in Malaysian news site argues GMO products should be labeled, laws on animal feed must require disclosure of GMO content and non-GMO options should be explored

News: South Korean science news site reports approved GMO imports have decreased five percent for second consecutive year due to decline in livestock production and remaining GMO inventory

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Group of plant scientists write to European Commission president to seek approval of three GM maize lines for commercial cultivation after EFSA found no risk involved and EU member states refused to make a decision

Commentary: Italy's Five Star Movement criticizes government response to questions regarding efforts to strengthen controls on GMOs, highlights importance of monitoring, looks forward to receiving concrete solution with numbers

News: Slovakian news agency reports Minister of Agriculture concerned about maintaining consumer confidence in organic products, establishing labeling of organic products and ensuring GMO residue not included

News: Science magazine reports breeders from Gottingen University in Germany have released seeds offering legal protection for open-source status; anyone can use the varieties but cannot prevent others from conducting research on derivatives

Commentary: German biotech news site says recent advances in gene-editing make GM crops safer and could overcome GMO stigma, but will need to address public concerns; adds traditional plant breeding

more time intensive, breeders have to ensure they aren't breeding out desirable characteristics

News: French news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO labeling operation carried out by Volunteer Reapers and Confédération Paysanne activists, in which activists put labels on several meat products in local stores, to create awareness about use of GM animal feed

Campaign: German NGO Sauvons la foret (Save the Forest) launches petition to US government against approval of GE eucalyptus trees, claiming GE trees will have significant negative impacts on the environment

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: International news agency focused on socio-environment issues claims Argentinian regulatory agency approving biotech seeds made up of scientists and experts from same ag companies producing and marketing seeds, highlights impact group had on biotech crops in Argentina

Commentary: Spanish NGO GRAIN recounts recent Seed Seminar event in Mexico City, where participants reaffirmed commitments Declaration of Yvapuruvu and the South - South Declaration on Seed Laws, and working against threats posed by industrial ag practices

News: Brazilian news site reports federal court maintains conviction and fine of rural producer for growing 40 hectares of GM cotton in 2007 without authorization from National Technical Commission on Biosafety; risk to people, animals and environment not addressed in case

News: Mexican news site talks to plant geneticist Wayne Parrot and other experts about GM crops; Parrot argues despite social, labeling and trade barriers, sustainability "is going to be much easier with GMOs than without them"; other experts discuss outlook for GM crops in Latin America and Africa

News: Sputnik reports Ecuador passed law allowing transgenic seeds into country for research purposes, notes some groups say law "would violate the national Constitution"; adds former President Rafael Correa used constitutional exception involving "national interest"

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Australian Right to Know shares FOI request from citizen seeking documents describing how and when Office of the Gene Technology Regulator first became aware of unapproved GM petunias in Australia

News release: Responding to call for submissions of five lines of GE potatoes by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, GE-Free New Zealand says they are "threat to public health" and claims animals fed GE soy and corn have suffered kidney malfunction and developed tumors

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 12, 2017
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 9:04:23 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A new peer-reviewed analysis of the first 20 years of genetically modified crop usage found broad benefits for farmers, food security and the environment. Released by PG Economics, the research is highlighted in a pair of pieces in this week's Favorable Outcomes Newsletter - one by Julie Kelly in *National Review* and another by Andrew Porterfield for Genetic Literacy Project.

Other articles note a Canadian screening of the "Food Evolution" documentary, criticize Walmart's recent stance against neonics and advocate for Ghana and other African countries to pursue biotech crops.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: Joseph Mercola

Omnipresent and in (his own) news every week, alternative health guru and purveyor of all-natural, organic cures Joe Mercola is a persistent critic of all conventional food production systems and a key financier of campaigns targeting GMOs for mandatory labeling or bans.

Stories Worth Sharing

Andrew Porterfield: Peer-reviewed analysis finds GM crops boost farm income, alleviate poverty and help environment

Julie Kelly: Activists upset at Trump exiting Paris climate pact should see study showing GM crops reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Real Agriculture: "Food Evolution" documentary on GMO debate makes Canadian debut

Josh Bloom: Claims by Seneff, Alliance for Natural Health that glyphosate will cause autism spike are "nonsense"

Nigerian journalist: African governments should end "era of dependence on food importation," pursue biotechnology

California Citrus Mutual: Walmart neonic policy will "directly contribute" to U.S. citrus industry decline

Cornell Alliance for Science encourages small-scale farmers in Ghana to consider biotech crops on case-by-case basis

Hank Campbell: Clear flaw in attack by Le Monde "pseudojournalists" on American Council on Science and Health

Center for Consumer Freedom: No antibiotics movement only means consumers "paying more for nothing different"

A Chicago-area osteopathic physician who has been criticized by the regulatory, medical and scientific community, Mercola contributed more than $1.1 million to the California GMO labeling campaign in 2012 and has hosted a "Right to Know GMOs" website on his Internet platform.

To learn more about Mercola, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

International Bee Research Association science director: Changes in land use "the major driver" of bee decline

"Abbey's Kitchen" video provides humorous take on why GMOs are safe and beneficial

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament to debate whether regulatory studies of glyphosate were rigorous and independent

Report: India's environment minister may soon make "final call" on commercialization of GM mustard

PG Economics report explores socio-economic and environmental impacts from GM crops

Brazilian biosafety commission approves commercial use of GM sugarcane

ChemChina announces progress in Syngenta acquisition, plans to de-list shares

Calendar highlights

June 13-15	June 13	June 15-17
World Health Organization Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health	USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services public hearing on gene edited crops	Food Innovation Asia conference
June 16	**June 18-21**	**June 23**
USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services final public hearing on gene edited crops	American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference on antibiotic resistance	Institute for Future Environments workshop "Debunking myths: Developing communication and engagement strategies for advanced biotechnology"

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 9 03:12 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 monitoring included updates on India's consideration of commercialization of GM mustard, as well as anticipated policy updates on biotechnology regulations and GMO labeling in the United States.

- Opponents of GM mustard continue to urge the environmental ministry to reject commercialization of the crop. *The New Indian Express* reported that thousands of tribal women from Odisha state took to the streets Saturday to protest GM mustard seeds. Other India-based news sites covered a conference held in eastern India where local experts elaborated on why they are "wary" of GM mustard. Plant scientist Devinder Sharma was quoted as saying the proposed mustard was not as high-yielding as touted and it would "not drive an oil revolution." **See more**.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding listening sessions Tuesday and Friday on the rules governing the agency's approval of GM crops. The issue was at the center of an op-ed in the *Chicago Tribune* in which American Council on Science and Health president Hank Campbell endorsed the USDA policies proposed under the Obama administration, arguing these are policies Trump should not reverse. **See more** In other U.S. policy news, *Politico* reported USDA officials are expected to provide an update on GM labeling rules Tuesday at the International Dairy Foods Association's annual Regulatory RoundUP. **See more**.
- Filipino news outlets reported think tank Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) is calling for passage of biotech law to help facilitate use of agricultural technology and to improve food security. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: London, Ontario-based dairy and crop farmer writes op-ed on local news site saying he gets upset when he sees non-GMO label because it falsely implies his GM products are unsafe and less effective; adds those selling "natural" alternatives are trying to portray him and his family as "bad guys"

Commentary: University of Idaho emeritus professor of agricultural economics, writing in The Packer, notes while unregulated Rio red grapefruit marketed as organic was developed by mutagenesis, Innate potato using "green biotech," is heavily regulated and not allowed to be labeled organic

News: Science News reports study co-authored by U.S. EPA policy fellow and University of Maryland researcher analyzed over 20 years of data from Maryland corn fields, finding rising temperatures may help corn earworms develop faster resistance to Bt strain; more research needed to clarify how warming affects the pests

Study: U.S. researchers writing in Royal Society Open Science analyzed relationship of temperature change and Bt adoption to major pests; highlight challenges posed by climate change for Bt pest management and need to incorporate processes affected by climate change into Bt-resistance programs

Commentary: Auburn University postdoctoral researcher Esther Ngumbi writes GMO Answers post for

Medium, providing perspective on ISAAA's recent global biotech adoption report, she highlights many benefits of GM crops for smallholders, such as increased yield and ability to withstand negative effects of climate change

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health president shares recent outreach events, reflects on response to smear campaign against University of Florida's Kevin Folta for working with Monsanto

More North America items

Africa

News: Local news source reports parliamentarians are under pressure to pass Ugandan Biosafety Bill after parts of country experienced food shortages due to prolonged drought; claims local pro-GMO activists not telling Ugandans why developed countries bar engineered foods while advocating them for developing countries

Commentary: Alternative news site reports on Tanzania's amended seed legislation, under which Tanzanian farmers face fines or imprisonment for selling uncertified seeds, highlights claims that the law will increase multinational control and result in biodiversity loss

News: Nigerian news outlet reports stakeholders workshop organized by Health of Mother Earth Foundation claims small-scale farmers are unknowingly being given GMO seeds; anti-GM group calls for urgent action and warns of "grand design to wipe out organic seeds"

News: Kenya's Daily Nation reports GM rice that fights multiple pathogens performed better than conventional variety; researchers say this innovation could help in developing world where farmers without access to fungicides often lose entire crop to disease

Commentary: Zambia Daily Mail editorials editor laments science and technology is being overshadowed in country by student protests; says Zambia needs to invest more in scientific research "to give our farmers more options for increased harvest per hectare besides conservation and organic farming"

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on spread of fall armyworm to large seed farms, Trans Nzoia County Agriculture Chief Officer Mary Nzomo warns excessive pesticide use could compromise seed quality, she believes genetic modification could be a potential solution

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports China's soybean futures hit three-month highs despite current domestic oversupply on talk of "ramped up checks" on GM imports; adds prolonged crackdown will upset major exporters like United States and Brazil

News: Filipino news outlet reports on think tank Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture's (Searca) call for passage of biotech law to help facilitate use of ag technology and to improve food security

News: The New Indian Express reports thousands of tribal women from Odisha state took to streets Saturday to protest GMO mustard seeds; notes, as with Bt Brinjal, "agitators" want state government to ban the mustard and farmers fear potential adverse impacts on honeybees

News: Vietnamese news site reports Tay Ninh province selected by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to pilot program shifting from traditional farming to "high-tech" methods, including use of "safe and effective" pesticides

News: South Korean news source reports unapproved LMO rapeseed from Monsanto were grown in 56 farms across country; Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said unapproved LMO rapeseed area will be specially managed; environmental groups worry about ecological disturbances

More Asia items

Europe

Report: U.K. NGO Beyond GM publishes results of recent report on consumer opinion of GM foods in restaurants, 97 percent of respondents believe chefs and caterers should include information on GM ingredients on menus and websites

Interview: French news site talks with Vandana Shiva, who spoke at environmental festival in Paris; Shiva blasts Monsanto, Bayer, pesticides, GMOs for role in raw materials war in India and worldwide; claims significant abuses, death fault of multinationals' greed

News: Italian news site reports Hungary burns 1,000 acres of Monsanto GM corn to prevent cross-pollination with non-GM crops; notes Hungary's constitution prohibits GMOs to protect human, environmental health

News: Slovakian news site reports Slovakia supports European declaration against GM soybeans, notes country part of anti-GMO group Soja du Danube

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports four states in country found to have planted GM corn despite nationwide ban; Pro Transgenics Alliance has lobbied federal government and Supreme Court to allow planting and commercialization of GM maize

News: Portuguese news site reports Brazil first country to approve commercialization of GM sugarcane; NGO pushes for no-GMO label in Portugal, group offers no-GMO certification, warns of unknown health, environmental risks, corporate control over food

News: Brazilian news outlet reports GM mosquito research project being launched to test success rate since field trials are technically not approved; regulatory agency has taken over two years to decide on possible commercialization

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on recent PG Economics study, Biotechnology Information Council (CIB) executive director Adriana Brondani confirmed statistics presented by the study, noting farmers who have adopted biotech crops have seen increased productivity

News: Argentina's Rosario Board of Trade (BCR) amplifies conclusions of PG Economics report on GM crops, highlights improved welfare for farmers in developing countries, pesticide reduction and improved yields

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments in today's monitoring of Oceania. Please click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and

Events calendar

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 9-11, 2017
Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017 9 02:04 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 monitoring highlights over the weekend included Brazil's National Technical Commission on Biosafety announcing its approval for commercial release of GM sugarcane. France's High Council for Biotechnology recommended using GM mosquitoes to battle disease but added the method should not be seen as a "miracle cure."

- Brazilian media reported regulatory agency CTNBio gave approval for the world's first GM sugarcane, which is pest resistant. An environment ministry representative, who voted against the approval, said research on the crop is flawed. **See more**.
- The French High Council on Biotechnology said the country should use GM mosquitoes as a "complementary" approach to fighting mosquito-borne disease, but cautioned environmental impacts should be addressed and there should be public input into the process. *Slate*'s French edition questioned whether fighting disease justifies the potential for disrupting "ecological balance." **See more**.
- The Washington law firm Keller and Heckman reported on its blog that a USDA official says the agency will attempt to meet its July 2018 deadline requiring GMO labeling despite delays caused by the administration change. The agency also plans two public education programs, one educating consumers on what the GMO labels and symbols mean and another on GMO safety. *Organic Authority* reported that if the USDA does not meet its deadline, it could jeopardize the pre-emption of state labeling laws. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Ag news outlet contributor promotes new "Food Evolution" documentary, highlighting Mark Lynas' explanation of why it is difficult for scientists to win in arguments against activists, as well as his disappointment at difficulty in getting a television audience in the US and Europe

News: Canadian news outlet reports on recent meeting of biotech experts in Guelph to learn about biotech communication, Kevin Folta argued that the debate has "turned a corner," noting the debate is no longer primarily focused on GMO safety

Interview: Author and lifestyle expert, blogger Chalene Johnson interviews plant pathologist Steve Savage on the safety of GMOs, glyphosate, myths about organics, and how to read food labels

Commentary: Skeptical Raptor dispels myth that GM sugar is different from any other type of sugar, using images of structural formulas of sugar from three different sources

Video: Organic Consumers Association hosts #Resist and #Regenerate Meetup Webinar on YouTube to teach supporters how to use Meetup platform to organize within their own communities to get in touch with local politicians

Commentary: Natural and organic living web site contributor says GMOs such as pink pineapple not as safe as Del Monte wants us to think, claims genes can pass to human blood, WHO classifies glyphosate

as carcinogen; says government claims GMOs are safe but exposes us to unsafe food

Commentary: Dairy industry news outlet contributors examine ways in which manufacturers are preparing for new federal GMO labeling requirements, they note that if a facility processes both conventional and non-GMO milk, "changeovers during production should address the potential commingling of product lines"

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: EnviroNews Nigeria piece by public servant urges Nigeria to take advantage of GMO technology; calls for support of National Biosafety Management Agency established to regulate GMO crops; warns GMO protesters paid by chemical companies benefiting from large amount of chemicals needed for non-GMO crops

News: Nigerian news site reports Nigerian scientist criticizes Academy of Science on its GMO endorsement, claims neither the agency, US agencies, nor the companies do proper testing on GMOs, so those who eat them are lab rats

Video: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO protest calling for nullification of National Biosafety Act, features Nnimmo Bassey of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Jackie Ikeotuonye of Andrew Bishopton Ltd and Sen. Bukar Ibrahim of Senate Committee on Ecology & Climate Change

News: International Potato Center reports first field observations of GM potatoes in Uganda show extreme resistance to late blight disease; late blight "responsible for production losses and high cost of fungicides almost everywhere the potato is grown"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Malaysian news site reports Science & Technology minister says country should use biotechnology to increase crop production, generate more income for farmers

Commentary: Science professor writing in India Today claims debate on GMOs needs to transcend the debate over whose evidence on risk assessment counts and ask larger questions on how GMOs help create (or not) the desired agrarian future and food security

Commentary: UC Davis plant pathologist writes for Vietnamese news outlet, examines GMO debate, he emphasizes scientific consensus on GMO safety, and explains how the US has benefited from the technology, acknowledges some environmental and economic risks

News: Chinese news outlet reports scientists and government officials presented information promoting national biotechnology development, popularizing the knowledge of GM crops, guiding public opinion, raising public awareness

Commentary: India weekly news outlet amplifies claims from Union Minister for Women and Child Development that Monsanto forced GM cotton crops into India and their pesticides threaten bee population, use of pesticides ignored by government leading to human, bee deaths

More Asia items

Europe

News: French environment news outlet reports on High Council for Biotechnology's recommendation not to overlook GE mosquitoes as a possible control for disease carrying mosquitoes, noting use should be in addition to conventional controls

Commentary: Contributor to Czech news site examines Europe's "strict" moratorium of GM tomatoes

and petunias, reviews potential benefits, concludes "perhaps you see the absurdity" of the bans

Video: Italian television news site reports on protest in Rome by family farm group Coldiretti and Greenpeace to keep country GMO-free and to protect Made in Italy brand

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadoran news site reports pros, cons, neutral aspects of GM crops, including producing affordable food, positive economic impact, better nutrition and being required to buy seed annually, potential for new allergies, reducing crop diversity

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on concerns about recent government approval of Sugarcane Technology Center (CTC) GM sugarcane variety, an Environment Ministry representative argued that CTC's safety assessments were flawed

Commentary: Lucía Sepúlveda of Campaign I Do not Want Transgenics in Chile/Pesticide Action Network writes for local news outlet, voicing opposition to public-private partnership promotion of GE trees, points to negative environmental impact of the trees themselves, as well as health and environmental risks of glyphosate

Commentary: Researcher writes in op-ed for Ecuadorian news outlet, welcomes approval of new seed law which allows use of GM seeds for research purposes, argues that GMOs are not bad in and of themselves, and that Ecuador should not be forced to fall behind in science

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE Free NZ amplifies findings of illegal GM petunias in New Zealand, uses finding to advocate for potato and tomato crops to remain GE Free for exporting

News: Australian legal firm focused on IP claims provides an overview of how to protect GM plants under Australian Plant Breeder's Rights Act and the Australian Patents Act

News: New Zealand Herald reports Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) sends potentially affected petunia seeds for lab testing after reports of GM petunias in Europe, the US and Australia, MPI's Peter Thomson noted there is "negligible" biosecurity risk from seeds and no risks to humans or environment

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 8, 2017
Date: Friday, June 9, 2017 1:04:19 AM

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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 highlights included Chinese news agencies reporting ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta is complete. South Korean media reported large amounts of unapproved GM rapeseed imported from China has been cultivated. French media reported the High Council for Biotechnology is due to release its final report on new breeding techniques by the end of the month, and one member said treating gene-edited products as GMOs would carry consequences.

- ChemChina announced it completed the deal to buy Swiss agribusiness Syngenta, and will begin a strategy to make the company go public once again "to realize long-term development and create greater value." **See more**.
- About 32.5 tons of unapproved GM rapeseed has been imported from China, according to Korean media. Much of the seed has been planted on farms in the country's 13 provinces. The government announced it is taking steps to correct the situation in which the unapproved seed was allowed into the country. **See more**.
- French media reported France's High Council for Biotechnology is due to issue its final report on new breeding techniques (NBTs) by the end of June. An HCB member said treating NBT-derived products as GMOs would complicate the authorization process so that only large companies would have the means to do so, prohibiting access for smaller companies. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: WIRED reports on CRISPR developer Jennifer Doudna's recent remarks at WIREDâ€™s 2017 Business Conference in New York, she noted potential use of the technology to cure genetic disease, emphasizing importance of creating consensus on responsible use, she voiced excitement about ag applications, especially in tomatoes

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins appeals to members to grow the Resist and Regenerate movement, claims to have 4,000 members across 241 chapters to work at the local and state level to advocate to ban Roundup, alleges environmental issues

Video: Canadian ag news site posts video by Abbey Sharp of "Abbey's Kitchen," who uses comedy to emphasize scientific consensus on GMO safety, and to highlight several benefits of the technology

Commentary: Columnist for progressive magazine highlights Montana seed exchange group's focus on biodiversity in contrast to profit focus by agribusiness giants; questions whether centralized seed banks are best way to safeguard world's food supply

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: US Feed the Future initiative highlights several best practices used by sub-Saharan

African countries that would benefit Nigeria's seed variety registration system, including requiring plant breeders to ensure traceability of reproductive materials

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) statement indicating it has not licensed any GM products in the country, and that any products available in the markets are illegal and should be reported to NAFDAC

News: Zambian news outlet reports on Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa's (ACTESA) promotion of GM cotton for farmers in the COMESA region, ACTESA Senior Policy Advisor Getachew Belay noted Bt cotton boosts yields and reduces pesticide use

Interview: Al Jazeera interviews South African researcher Jill Farrant on her work with drought-tolerant "resurrection plants" to help boost African food security, she believes those who oppose her research are ignorant about the subject, notes drought-tolerant plants are one of many important tools

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site note many farmers who commit suicide do so to prevent their families from losing home due to high amount of debt they are unable to repay

News: Law360 contributor Cara Salvatore reports Syngenta exec testifies that Chinese regulatory approval was 'not on the company's to-do list' before the launch of its Viptura GE corn seed variety into the US market

Commentary: Former head of Indian Agricultural Research Institute's Division of Entomology, Govind Gujar, and South Asia Biotechnology Centre's Bhagirath Choudhary write for local news outlet, debunking claims that GM mustard will negatively impact pollination and honey production

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: UK horticulture news outlet interviews University of Leeds plant geneticist Peter Meyer, who developed the orange GM petunia that has been found distributed throughout international markets, he believes new ornamentals should be assessed on their characteristics, not on whether or not they are GMOs

News: French news sites report High Council for Biotechnology says country should use GM mosquitoes but should not view them as "miracle solution" against diseases

Event: EU Commission's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section on Genetically modified food and feed and environmental risk, will hold meeting on June 12 to discuss authorizing placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from GM soybean DAS-68416-4

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Colombian pro-biotech NGO Agro-Bio amplifies PG Economics report highlighting economic, environmental benefits from GM crops

News: Uruguayan news site reports human rights NGO and Ombudsman's Office ask National Biosafety office to extend risk assessment for 3 GMO varieties; ombudsman's office expresses concern assessment doesn't include the pesticide use

News: Reuters reports on Brazil's approval of commercial use of pest-resistant GM sugarcane variety, developed by CTC Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira SA, CEO Gustavo Leite noted it will take three years before the sugar reaches export markets

News: Mexican news site reports farmers association official says Mexico could plant GM cotton without worry regarding health effects since it is not eaten, and without contamination worry since there are no other cotton plants in Mexico

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports illegal GM petunia varieties detected in country after importer noted recalls taking place in Europe and US

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO group marks March Against Monsanto with call on government to undertake comprehensive biodiversity studies on four most common GM crops, applauds countries banning GM crop cultivation

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 7, 2017
Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 8 58:13 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 monitoring highlights included a report the Indian government may soon announce a decision on GM mustard commercialization. The Cornell Alliance for Science summarized speeches at the International Symposium for Biosafety on GMOs. Nigerian activists continued their call to ban GMOs in an appeal to the Nigerian Senate president. A Swiss legislative body voted down a bill that would have allowed biotechnology research in the country.

- Indian news outlet *Mint* reported Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan may announce his decision on GM mustard soon, noting the ministry prepared a list of stakeholders with whom Vardhan will meet in the next few weeks. Activists announced plans to intensify their protests in response. GM mustard developer Deepak Pental explained why biotechnology is important for India and dismissed activist concerns about GM mustard yields. **See more.**
- A Cornell Alliance for Science blogger and the Mexican news site *Conacyt* published articles on the International Symposium for Biosafety on GMOs' first day, noting speakers highlighted the need for effective communication on biotechnology. **See more**.
- Nigerian activist groups issued a letter to Senate President Bukola Saraki asking to repeal the National Biosafety Act and enact a GMO ban. Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey claimed biotech crops are unjust, unsafe and unsustainable. **See more**.
- Swiss Environment Minister Doris Leuthard said agricultural technology scientists likely will leave the country after the Council of States defeated a bill that would have allowed biotechnology research. **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: In National Review, Julie Kelly questions how anti-GMO groups joining Bloomberg-led coalition to fight climate change will respond knowing GMOs proven to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, cites PG Economics study highlighting global benefits for GM crops

Commentary: Organic Center responds to Quartz article stating organic cotton is worse for the environment than conventional, claims GM crops' use of glyphosate is harmful to environment and humans while organic plays a greater role in biodiversity conservation

Campaign: Friends of the Earth warns that the FDA is "rubber-stamping" new GE foods that it hasn't ensured are safe; asks readers to send a pre-written letter telling the FDA to regulate all new genetically engineered plants and animals

Report: Yale Law School Cultural Cognition Project report examines roles that "misinformation and misconceptions of science" play in political controversies over decision-relevant science, such as GM foods, argues that the problem is in a polluted science communication environment

Study: PLOS One publishes study by researchers from Purdue University seeking to quantify U.S. residents' acceptance of genetic modification across five potential uses; human medicine and human

health uses more highly accepted than food production

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian newspaper reports director of Cornell Alliance for Science encourages Ghana to consider biotech crops as tool for small-scale farmers on case-by-case basis, believes farmers around the world should have choice on adopting new technology to help with food security

Announcement: ISAAA reports Tanzanian farmers tell journalists they want government to hasten GE crop authorizations, say biotech crops will save them from crop failure

More Africa items

Asia

News: India news outlet reports environment minister Harsh Vardhan likely to take final call soon on approving commercial cultivation of GM mustard, some farmer groups claim is is not needed nor safe

Commentary: Trade policy analyst writes in Deccan Herald, spotlighting National Biodiversity Authority's role in deciding acceptance of GM mustard in India; group is responsible for impact of modern biotechnology on biodiversity, can push government to consider available local alternatives

Announcement: ISAAA highlights recent Vietnam symposium on Current Advances of Genome Editing Technology and its Application in crop improvement, presentations revealed potential of genome editing technology in R&D in Vietnam and Japan for new crop varieties

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies recommends GM mosquitos as a complementary, long-term solution to help fight vector-borne diseases, but cautions environmental impact needs to be assessed

News: Swiss news site reports Parliament rejects bill that would have allowed scientific research on GMOs; parliament member says scientists will leave country to study elsewhere

News: Ukrainian news site reports PG Economics GMO study notes GM crops reduce agriculture's impact on the environment by reducing CO2 emissions and pesticide use

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Sputnik reports lawyer says Uruguay needs biosafety law to regulate GM crops, agrochemicals; says moratorium would give time to ensure steps taken are in right direction

News: Mexican news outlet reports research professor found no significant differences between introgression of GM maize genes with native maize during a four-year experiment, claims Mexico should take advantage of biotechnology and request approval for planting GM maize

News: Peruvian news site reports Peruvian Association of Consumers and Users concerned regarding dairy association official's statements, say Peru citizens and their children unknowingly eat GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: ISAAA amplifies announcement Nuseed is seeking commercial approval from Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator for GM canola; risk assessment plan for public comment available in October

Announcement: Australian Department of Health's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces discovery of unapproved GM petunias in Australia's horticulture market, and has issued inadvertent dealings licences to allow for their legal disposal, in addition to a series of fact sheets with summary of risk analysis

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 6, 2017
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 9:03:36 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 monitoring highlights included the introduction of a new GM labeling bill in Portugal, a series of demonstrations against GE trees in Chile and a new stakeholder response to the GM mustard debate in India.

- The Portuguese Green Party introduced a bill to require labeling of all products containing GMOs, regardless of the level of presence, arguing that consumers seeking a completely GMO-free diet may still be consuming them under current labeling laws. The bill was part of a series of environmentally focused laws introduced by the group that are stirring online discussion in the region. **See more**
- The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations' Congress of Tree Biotechnology is holding a meeting in Chile, which has prompted demonstrations from anti-biotech activists protesting the development of GE trees. The protest outside the conference is the first of a series of actions, meetings and discussions scheduled for this week, which aim to warn of the impacts of transgenic trees to the natural environment in Chile. **See more**
- Several India-based news sites reported the country's National Academy of Agricultural Science issued a resolution calling on the government to approve commercial cultivation of GM mustard so it can be used in the next winter season. The group of scientists includes Deepak Pental, the developer of the crop. Also, agriculture expert and Metahelix Life Sciences founder K. K. Narayanan published an op-ed in *Mint* today recommending India avoid following the same path with GM mustard as it did with Bt eggplant. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News release: Occidental College promotes book "What's So Controversial about Genetically Modified Food?" by sociology professor, book explores cultural and social ramifications of food and why GM foods aren't accepted despite being safe; June 14-17 conference on food issues and related topics also highlighted

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor amplifies recent PG Economics report demonstrating widespread environmental and economic benefits of GM crop adoption, especially in developing nations, notes the report is in a peer-reviewed journal, unlike Danny Hakim's article claiming that the opposite is true

Event: Ontario news site reports debate between proponents of GMOs and organic growing methods will be subject of film screening and panel discussion at University of Guelph; panel includes Alison van Eenennaam, Mark Lynas, Kevin Folta and C.S. Prakash; film "Food Evolution" delves into scientific evidence behind GMOs and confusion surrounding food

News: The Kansas City Star reports Syngenta trial over unapproved GMO corn exports to China gets underway in Kansas City; notes local law firms involved in litigation for plaintiffs and Syngenta

News: Snopes says claims from YourNewsWire that Melania Trump banned Monsanto products from the

White House due to GMO health concerns are "fake news"

Commentary: Paste Magazine contributor praises Sonoma for becoming sixth California county to ban GM food cultivation; notes other "green-leaning rebel counties" have already banned GMO crops "for their questionable effects on health and the environment" and for their "central role in the global corporate monopoly game"

News: Politico reports USDA acting undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services Jason Hafemeister, in China to try and finalize terms to reopen Chinese market to U.S. beef exports, may get update on eight pending US biotech agricultural applications; notes favorable decision "could open the door for sales" to several biotech firms

News: Bloomberg BNA reports US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says GMO labeling rules are likely to have technology component like a QR code, people want disclosure but most don't want it to "the nth degree"

Campaign: The Garden Island reports on GMO Free Kauai's effort to engage new volunteers, notes upcoming June 14 meeting

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson recounts recent discussion with Penn Sate entomologist John Tooker, who argues that GMOs have increased insecticide use, explores negative impact of neonic seed treatments on beneficial insects, advocates finding middle ground between organic and industrial ag practices

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news site contributor says biotechnology can help solve Africa's food insecurity and has been adopted by countries on continent to develop agricultural sectors, making them self-sufficient in food production and earning foreign exchange through agricultural exports

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Seed Freedom, criticizing U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of Paris Climate Agreement, condemns modern industrial ag practices including use of GMOs, claiming they destroy soil health and biodiversity, promotes agroecology

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports PG Economics Institute study points to widespread benefits to environment and farmers, highlights reduced pesticide use and increased farmer income

Announcement: Third World Network announces its publication of book by its biosafety programme coordinator, Lim Li Ching, examining challenges in regulating synthetic biology, with special focus on synbio in context of Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Dutch news site contributor says film "Well Fed" shows how world benefits from modern food production and genetic engineering, discounts Greenpeace's anti-GM stance; adds standing up for advancement of agriculture a welcome development

News release: Agri-Food Chain Coalition (AFCC) responds to EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis' call for promotion of science at recent COCERAL/UNISTOCK Conference, AFCC chair Roxane Feller noted existence of many innovative solutions for livestock and crop production, listing science promotion as a key objective

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports seed producer AgruniekRijnvallei is now ready to produce GMO-free cattle feed in compliance with Germany's VLOG standard, anticipating increased demand for dairy products from cows fed non-GMO feed, AgruniekRijnvallei already produces non-GMO poultry feed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports university researcher says environmental activism has become big business and decisions aren't always made on best available science; adds science says GM corn safe, sensible and the controversy is activist-generated

Interview: Mexican news outlet speaks with Sol Ortiz, executive secretary of Inter-Ministerial Commission on Bio-Security and Genetically Modified Organisms (Cibogem); Ortiz says country's over-regulation discourages research and causes researchers to leave country, calls for better communication to win public's trust

News: Mexican news outlet reports AgroBIO Mexico general director believes country is falling behind competitors who use GM crops, says biotech crops are proven to be safe, will increase yields and lower reliance on GM corn imports

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian agricultural news outlet reports CropLife Australia CEO using PG Economics report on environmental and economic benefits of GM crops to push Australian government to repeal unnecessary state GM crop moratoriums

News: New Caledonia news outlet reports on government extension of ban on GM imports, following favorable opinion of Advisory Committee on Plant Protection, the ban now includes all GM plants and seeds, in addition to animal feed products

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 9:03:25 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 monitoring highlights included the release of an analysis on the benefits of GM crops and a new effort by the African Centre for Biodiversity to oppose the import of GM crops. In the United States, media previewed an Agriculture Department hearing on biotechnology regulations and a class-action lawsuit dealing with Syngenta's Viptera corn.

- PG Economics released its latest report on the global socio-economic and environmental impacts of GM crop use. The report found crop biotech has significantly reduced the environmental impact of agriculture over the last 20 years, as well as stimulating economic growth and helping to reduce poverty. The report was amplified on *Medium* by GMO Answers in a Medium piece on World Environment Day. **See more**
- *Politico* previewed the USDA's first of three listening on the rules governing biotech crop approvals, scheduled for tomorrow. Attendees will review proposed changes made by the Obama administration to reflect new forms of genetic engineering, as well as lower market barriers for products that don't pose risks. **See more** Among other U.S. developments, proceedings were set to begin today in the first of many lawsuits against Syngenta for its commercialization of Viptera in the U.S. before China approved the seed for import *Bloomberg* and *The Associated Press* previewed the case. **See more**
- The African Centre for Biodiversity published a report examining South Africa's import and export of GMOs, noting the implications of a drought on the country's maize exports. The NGO called on activists in Swaziland and Zimbabwe to follow up with their governments to ensure imported GMOs are milled properly and do not contaminate farmers' fields.. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: BIO promotes U.S. launch of Food Evolution documentary (June 23); film explores pro and con sides of GMOs, how misinformation, confusion, fear used to overwhelm analysis

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter blog advises how to respond when a favorite product gets a "non-GMO" label; notes benefits of GMOs include "less pesticide use, increased yields, increased profits for farmers, targeted pest management, increased adoption of conservation tillage"

News release: As You Sow executive summary for "Roundup Revealed" report includes summary on IARC findings, the role of GM agriculture in driving glyphosate use, in contribution to weed resistance issues, and how pre-harvest uses of the chemical pose greater threats via pesticide residues; amplifies UN rapporteur report claiming pesticide-driven agriculture not necessary to meet world food demands

News: Bloomberg reports class action lawsuit by 7,000 Kansas farmers against Syngenta begins today; farmers in 14 additional states awaiting class certification decisions by Kansas judge; ADM and Cargill also accused Syngenta in separate lawsuits pending in Louisiana state court of allowing its seed to taint US corn; Syngenta asserts "its GMO seed wasn't responsible for price drops"

Commentary: Josie Peterson of Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies PG Economics' 2017 report, highlighting findings that biotech crop adoption has resulted in reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, reduced land use, and has enabled farmers to use conservation tillage practices

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Council for Biotechnology Information writes GMO Answers post for Medium in honor of World Environment Day, amplifies PG Economics' 2017 report demonstrating positive impact of GMOs on the environment and the global economy

More North America items

Africa

Study: Researchers from China publish survey of Tanzanians in Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences to learn about public perceptions of GM foods in countries facing food shortages; findings suggest benefit perceptions might be precondition for supporting GM foods

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity issues alert regarding GMO exports to and from South Africa, highlighting increase in GM maize imports from the US due to recent drought, as well as South Africa's GM exports to Swaziland and Zimbabwe

Commentary: Tanzanian news outlet editorial praises Butiama Village women's groups promotion of ag biotech, highlighting Mikocheni Agricultural Institute's (MARI) development of disease-resistant cassava varieties

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity report examines export to and from South Africa of GMOs, highlighting recent increase in exports due to drought conditions, calls on activists in Swaziland and Zimbabwe to follow up with their governments to ensure imported GMOs are milled properly and do not contaminate farmers' fields, and to be wary of health risks

News: Reuters reports South Africa hopes to export 3.5 million ton maize surplus to Asian and Middle Eastern countries for animal feed after large yields lowered local prices; restrictions on GM maize imports in Africa forcing South Africa to look elsewhere

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, representing 650 of India's top ag scientists, calls for immediate release of GM mustard, saying biosafety and environmental concerns unfounded

News: Indonesian news site reports Governor Sri Sultan says government to invest in biotechnology research to improve food processing system; notes decreasing agricultural land with increasing population, importance of developing superior seeds, particularly for rice

News: Saudi Arabian news outlet reports Monsanto not allowed to work in Saudi market due to harm to human health from GM crops and because company did not complete country's required statutory procedures

Video: Seed Freedom amplifies Vandana Shiva's YouTube video denouncing Monsanto's damage to the environment and human health on World Environment Day, highlights start of campaign for the world to be poison-free by 2050

More Asia items

Europe

News: Portuguese news site reports Green Party to unveil package of environmental initiatives, including bills to extend label rules for GM foods, phase out agricultural glyphosate use, citing IARC

cancer warning

Interview: Italian policy-focused news outlet interviews pharmacology professor on Europe's refusal to accept science in decision making, hypocrisy of Italy's refusal to grow GM maize while importing it for animal feed, highlights data showing GM foods identical in nutritional value for less cost than organic

News: Le Monde reports on developments in CRISPR technology, highlighting DuPont Pioneer's innovations at its Iowa facility, highlights controversy surrounding association with GMOs, including concerns about IARC's review of glyphosate, as well as activists' concerns about recent Nature study demonstrating CRISPR's unintended mutations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports biosafety symposium on GMOs began today in Guadalajara; AgroBio Mexico president calls for science to be used as parameter for approvals of GMOs

News: Brazilian health-focused news outlet reports CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology one method being examined to help country battle HLB in citrus; one researcher worries time from discovery to regulation could be too long

Interview: Bolivian news site talks with Probioma director about GMO crops, pesticide use; claims demand for non-GMO food rising; WHO, other studies show harm to human health from GMOs, pesticides; claims GMO seeds not capable of increasing crop yield

News: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and Bahia Foundation announce launch of three new GM cotton varieties; products stand out because of "high productive potential" and are resistant to destructive caterpillars and glyphosate

News: Argentinian news site reports Del Monte will soon bring pink pineapples grown in Costa Rica, Hawaii to grocery stores with FDA permission to sell in the U.S.; pink pineapples have less of an enzyme that converts pink lycopene into yellow beta carotene

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: GM Free Australia Alliance says it compiled GM-Free Shopping List to "celebrate the growing number of companies choosing to label their products GM-free or non-GM"; asks readers to "send us details" if favorite products not on list

Announcement: GM Free Australia Alliance highlights 2017 edition of its GM-Free Shopping List; spokesperson says latest edition acknowledges and promotes "growing list of brands whose GM-free status caters to consumers' right to choose non-GM foods"

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 5, 2017
Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 4 00:43 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Is organic farming really better for your health and the environment? And are organic foods really worth the price?

In a series of five pieces in this week's newsletter, science communicators answer both of the questions above with a resounding, "NO!" Scroll down to read - and share - the articles from Steven Novella of the New England Skeptical Society, two writers with the American Council on Science and Health and Marc Bain of Quartz. Bjorn Lomborg of the Copenhagen Consensus Center also explores the issue in a video.

Other topics covered in this week's newsletter include GM mustard in India, the impact of the U.S. listing a bee as an endangered species and the anti-Monsanto bias of two *Le Monde* writers attacking glyphosate.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: As You Sow

The shareholder action group As You Sow has been in the news recently for campaigns targeting animal antibiotic use, opposing GMOs and promoting regenerative, organic and agroecology food

Stories Worth Sharing

Steven Novella: Organic lobby's claims about health and environmental benefits "all demonstrably wrong"

Ruth Kava: Exempting organic pesticides from "Dirty Dozen" list another dishonest move by Environmental Working Group

Bjorn Lomborg: "Facts don't support" claims that organic food is healthier, better for the environment and worth premium price

Alex Berezow: Researchers from Germany, Sweden find organic farms use more land, have same carbon footprint as conventional

Quartz: Study finds organic cotton production uses more water, emits more greenhouse gases than GM cotton

The Indian Express: "Double standard" to long for latest tech in smartphones and cars while forcing farmers to use old methods

Paul Driessen: Bee's endangered species listing hindering development projects, federal agency "must nip this problem in the bud"

Kavin Senapathy: Non-GMO Project label "tells us absolutely nothing meaningful about a product or its ingredients"

systems over "industrial" production methods.

As You Sow has partnered with (including funding) groups including the Pesticide Action Network and the Maharishi Movement's Institute for Responsible Technology (Jeffrey Smith) to promote health risk claims linked to factory farms, commodity agriculture production, crop protection and biotechnology applications in food production.

On Tuesday, the NGO will team with the Center for Food Safety and Charles Benbrook to release "Roundup Revealed: Glyphosate in our Food System" report.

Learn more about As You Sow HERE.

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David Zaruk: With McCarthyesque tactics, Stéphane Horel of Le Monde shows she's an activist posing as a journalist

John Masaba: Sub-Saharan countries should pay heed to study indicating climate change will impact production, plant GM crops

Leah Dorman: New York Times editorial provided "heartbreaking" level of misinformation about animal agriculture

The Scottish Farmer: Even after Brexit, U.K. could be forced to follow EU rules on glyphosate, neonics that leave farming in "Dark Ages"

Michelle Miller: Bette Midler's false claims about GMO seeds make her latest celebrity to misinform public about farming

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What's Trending?

Regulators dispute claims by IARC's Christopher Portier that data on glyphosate causing cancer was overlooked

Ecuador National Assembly votes to allow import of genetically modified seeds for research

U.S. activist groups urge supporters to submit comments to EPA opposing chlorpyrifos before Monday deadline

Nigerian government predicts food shortage of 5 million tons if armyworm outbreak is not addressed

Food Standards Australia New Zealand taking comments through July 7 on genetically modified potatoes

U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance issues "Agriculture in America Sustainability Report" on how farmers meet society's needs

Calendar highlights

June 5	June 6-7	June 6-13
United Nations World Environment Day	AgChem Summit 2017: Regulations for Biologicals	International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph meeting
June 6	**June 6**	**June 7**
As You Sow, Center for Food Safety, Charles Benbrook release report on glyphosate in food system	USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services public hearing on gene edited crops	World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 2-4, 2017
Date: Sunday, June 4, 2017 9:02:30 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

This weekend's global biotechnology monitoring included scientists' reactions to a study published in *Nature Methods* that claims CRISPR gene editing causes hundreds of off-target mutations. Anti-biotech activists in Ecuador filed a lawsuit claiming changes to the country's seed law are unconstitutional. An Indiana farmer responded to singer Bette Midler's criticism of Monsanto's seed patent contracts.

- A geneticist and a biochemistry doctoral student critiqued a study published in the *Nature Methods* journal that claims CRISPR gene editing creates hundreds of unintended mutations. Geneticist Gaetan Burgio noted the experiment could have drastically reduced the number of off-target mutations in a number of ways. University of Washington biochemistry doctoral student Ian Haydon noted the study used unusual methods and there was an unusually high levels of enzyme activity. **See more**.
- After the Ecuadoran Assembly approved changes to the country's seed law that would allow biotechnology research, activists said they plan to file a lawsuit that will claim the law violates Ecuador's Constitution, which has a provision that the country is GMO-free. **See more**.
- Fourth-generation Indiana farmer Brian Scott responded to Midler's criticism of Monsanto's seed patent contracts, explaining that farmers agree with Monsanto's policies and profit from them -- which is why they buy seed from Monsanto. **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.

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North America

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health criticizes Whole Foods for posting lies about organic ag on its website, debunks Whole Foods' claims about organic pesticide use, notes conventional farmers care just as much about protecting human health and the environment

Commentary: Collective Evolution contributor begins series against Bill Nye's new Netflix show, with first article criticizing his episode on GMOs, claims GMOs have not been proven safe, links glyphosate to several health disorders

Commentary: Science teacher Stephan Neidenbach blogs that arguments that we already produce enough food to feed the world is not a reason oppose GMOs; notes GMOs would help Third World nations produce enough food to feed themselves rather than depending on aid

Commentary: USRTK's Gary Ruskin attacks Henry I. Miller, associating him with Phillip Morris and the tobacco industry, climate change denial, defending pesticides, and attacks on the organic industry

Commentary: Environmental Working Group writer claims regulations impacted by Trump risk food safety, healthiness including failure to draft a GM labeling law, a reversal of ban on pesticide allegedly linked to brain damage, dropping new rules to protect farm workers from pesticides

News: Southwest Farm Press reports Cotton Incorporated ag research head says cotton's effect on

environment continues to diminish, thanks largely to science and technology, including genetic engineering; adds biotechnology protects plants from insect damage, reduces energy consumption for cotton farmers

News: Business news site reports story claiming Melania Trump banned Monsanto products, GMOs from White House is fake news, says YourNewsWire is fake news site that plagiarized quotes from six-year-old Yes magazine article

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports ag minister holds emergency meeting with state ag commissioners to tackle spread of armyworms devastating country's maize farms; control formula using inorganic and organic chemicals being used to fight the pest

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba's call for better collaboration between regulatory agencies and stakeholders, emphasizing importance of biotech in addressing emerging food security, social and economic challenges

More Africa items

Asia

News: Saudi Arabian news sites report Ministry of Trade and Investment spokesman says the kingdom will not allow Monsanto to do business in Saudi Arabia

News: The Indian Express reports honey bee expert claims GM mustard will reduce bees' pollen, nectar collection due to reduction in flowering period, also will impact ability to produce non-GMO honey for export to EU, U.S.

News: The Hindu reports on opposition to GM mustard following GEAC approval, while many states have already rejected it, Karnataka has not yet begun the consultation process, Ag minister Krishna Byre Gowda noted they will consult scientists, biotech ministry, and the Chief Minister before taking a stance

News: Japanese news outlet reports on outdoor field trial of gene edited rice variety by National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, with goal of improving yield and grain size, it is not yet known whether Japan will classify the rice as GM, anti-GMO group Seikatsu-Club warned about cross contamination of other crops

News: Chinese news agency reports on EFSA publication of risk assessment guidance for infant foods, including regulation of pesticide residues

Commentary: Indian news site reviews debate surrounding approval of GM mustard, presents arguments in favor and against GMOs, criticizes GEAC for failing to adequately review safety of GM crops and related herbicides, concludes farmers should decide whether to grow GM crops

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico Pro reports Luxembourg Parliament unanimously opposed approval for three GM maize crops, up to European Commission to make final decision

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM argues recent Nature study demonstrating off-target mutations in mice modified with CRISPR-Cas9 is confirmation of Inf'OGM's previous articles on off-target effects of genetic modification, now republished with updated version

Review: Greenpeace Netherlands praises film "Well Fed" which revolves around GMOs; claims Greenpeace is not against biotechnology, but adopt precautionary principle "until it is sufficiently and

independently proven that a modified crop is also safe for humans, animals and the environment in the long term"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Ecuadoran news site reports NGOs file lawsuit claiming revised seed law allowing biotech research violates constitutional provision that the country is GMO-free

News: Ecuadoran news site reports National Assembly approved entry of GM seeds into country for research by vote of 73 to 55, lawmaker who voted in favor said opposing knowledge and research is "a disservice to the country", opposition lawmaker said allowing entry is "unconstitutional"

News: Globo reports Mato Grosso State Soybean and Maize Producers Association believes 2017/2018 harvest may be at least 15 percent non-GMO grain compared to current 10 percent, due to price differentials

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian bioethics news site reports on recent Nature study led by Columbia University Medical Center researchers which found that CRISPR can introduce hundreds of unintended mutations in mice, co-author Stephen Tsang emphasized importance of using whole genome sequencing to find off-target effects

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, June 1, 2017 9:01 07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring included the Grocery Manufacturers Association requesting to push the Nutrition Facts label deadline back to May 2021, saying it would save industry money. Vandana Shiva asked Argentina's Supreme Court to hold a public hearing on GMOs.

- *Politico* reported the GMA asked for a delay in the Nutrition Facts label deadline to coordinate with the GMO disclosure standard, arguing it would save the industry about $1.7 billion. **See more**.
- An Argentine news site reported Vandana Shiva appeared before the Supreme Court in the NGO Nature of Rights' lawsuit against Monsanto to prohibit the company's Roundup Ready 2 soybean. Shiva asked the court for a public hearing to allow independent experts to testify. **See more**.
- The Organic Consumers Association's weekly newsletter promoted the organization's Regenerate campaign, asking readers to boycott Scott's Miracle Gro because it is the leading distributor of Roundup in the United States and partnered with Monsanto to distribute genetically engineered grass seed. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Canadian science blogger criticizes social media coverage of recent Nature study on unintended effects of CRISPR in mice, notes the findings simply demonstrate that more work is needed on the technology, notes anti-GMO activists have a twisted interpretation of the study

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for Genetic Literacy Project, criticizing Bette Midler's recent criticism of Monsanto seed patent contracts on Twitter, praises responses from farming community, where farmers explained the wide range of choices they have, and explained why saving seeds is not idea

Announcement: GMO Free Kauai holding action meeting June 14 to grow its volunteer base and form smaller action committees; potential committees include GMO Free restaurant campaign and testing water/air for pesticides

Commentary: Biotech researcher Belinda Martineau posts response to Robb Fraley's recent Huffington Post piece on Bill Nye on her personal blog, echoing Fred Gould of NAS' GMO committee's opinion that Seralini's GM rat study should not have been retracted, argues Seralini's research demonstrates there are still unknown effects of GMOs

Commentary: PythagoreanCrank vegan blogger lobbies to end "GMO" term, says it isn't a scientific term, attracts conspiracy theorists

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Dr. Sylvester Oikeh writes CropLife International blog post highlighting policy changes in several African countries allowing biotech crop research and commercialization; examples include Ethiopia's Bt cotton trials and trials of Bt maize in Mozambique; says home-grown products "crucial in promoting biotechnology crops as a solution to Africa's food insecurity challenge"

Study: African Journals Online publishes findings by University of Arkansas, Agricultural Commodity Exchange researchers showing Ghanaians perceive cisgenic as different than GM rice, but not different than transgenic; researchers recommend government educate citizens about GM, different GM products to improve consumer acceptance

Commentary: CLI-supported Endocrine Science Matters publishes op-ed by CropLife Africa Middle East's Stella Simiyu discussing dangers of politics trumping science; claims passage of EDC criteria would further diminish "already small crop protection toolbox in Africa," result in trade losses

More Africa items

Asia

Study: AgBioForum publishes study by Colorado State University researcher suggesting Japanese government engage stakeholders such as scientists, farmers and consumer organizations on GM technology R&D and GM applications

Commentary: Indian Express columnist portrays debate over acceptance of GM mustard in India as "us" versus "them" philosophy with consumers hypocritically desiring latest electronic technology but forcing farmers to use traditional methods, despite country's GM rapeseed and canola oil imports; safety of GM crops highlighted

News: Indian economy news outlet reports on challenges ahead for GM mustard following Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approval, highlights farmers' hope for commercialization to help increase yields, and concern about activists' opposition, scientists are concerned as well

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Risk Monger David Zaruk criticizes Le Monde journalists' anti-Monsanto bias, prejudice against biotech and pesticides without considering how ban would affect farmers; and reprinting answers to Stephane Horel's "neo-McCarthyist inquisition"questions; adds that if Horel were his journalism student, she would fail

News: Reuters reports new French farm minister wants to see scientific evidence before making decision on EU license for glyphosate or expanding GM crop cultivation; minister says "if there is a proven risk, I think it is right to ban some products"

Commentary: Coldiretti notes World Biodiversity Day by noting Italy has lost 6,000 varieties of fruit in a century, but claims it made strides by banning GMOs to protect biodiversity

Study: European Food Safety Authority publishes review of previous EFSA conclusions on risk assessment of GM maize NK603, researchers conclude the previous conclusions "remain valid and applicable"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Cuban news site reports during food sovereignty exhibition in Mexico, Union of Scientists Committed to Society president claims transgenics harm environment, human health and culture

News: Ecuadoran news site reports legislature will debate president's partial veto of seed law, which would change the law to allow biotech research; anti-biotech groups, politicians say they oppose

allowing biotech research in Ecuador, saying it will cause "extinction of native seeds"

News: Ecuadoran news site reports NGO Free Transgenic Ecuador Collective claims presidential veto of seed bill violates Ecuador's Constitution, which establishes that the country is free of GMOs; Assembly member says if country grows only ancestral seeds, it will not be competitive in global market

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 - May 31, 2017
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 9:04:30 PM

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 continued commentary and lobbying on GM mustard commercialization in India. There was ongoing commentary on the study in *Nature Methods* that found CRISPR gene editing causes unintended mutations.

- The Indian Council on Medical Research told a parliamentary panel investigating GM mustard that GM crops are "generally safe" but should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Beej Bachao agriculture group worried the crop would ruin the Himalayan ecology, and South Asia Biotechnology Centre President CD Mayee argued the domestically produced crop would reduce dependence on foreign food. **See more**.
- A Newsweek report quoted CRISPR co-discoverer Jennifer Doudna as saying she doesn't believe conclusions can be drawn from the CRISPR study featured in *Nature Methods* because it used the method much differently than the way in which the vast majority of labs apply CRISPR. However, the article indicated there still are ethical questions surrounding the method and noted the study likely will mean the method will be tightly regulated in the future. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizing Non-GMO Project's tactics, debunks their claim that there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, voices disappointment that citrus producers are seeking verification, noting GE technology may be the only way to solve the citrus greening issue plaguing the citrus sector

Commentary: SciDev.Net regional coordinator Ranjit Devraj says while India's GEAC has approved genetically modified mustard for commercial cultivation, death of nation's environment minister "could stymie the push for the GM crop"; notes leaders are under pressure to ban technology over biosafety concerns

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project profiles Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and its aggressive promotion of agroecology and organic agriculture; group criticized for unscientific views on GM crops, including claims on safety and crop yields; UCS also faulted for partnership with Just Label It

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins promotes OCA's Regenerate campaign, argues that rebuilding soil health and avoiding use of GMOs and pesticides can help mitigate climate change, improve public health, and end war and conflict

Commentary: Contributor to Future Earth publication Anthropocene examines University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign researchers' work on development of GM soybean varieties designed to thrive in high-stress conditions, explains the breeding process, notes it is just one tool for meeting future food needs

Commentary: Kevin Folta urges science community to abandon use of the term "GMO," explaining many

reasons why it is inadequate, and noting it is mostly used by anti-GMO movements seeking to disparage the technology, provides several suggestions for preferred technology nomenclature, such as "genetic engineering" and "gene editing"

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA reports Kenyan delegation praises Malawi's Bt cotton field trials during study tour organized by ISAAA; NEMA chair says he would support Bt cotton use in Kenya

News: Reporting on World Bank open day, Ugandan news source says National Agricultural Research Organization official urged passage of country's biosafety bill to protect Ugandans from biotech products coming in from neighboring nations

Commentary: The Huffington Post South Africa publishes piece by agricultural economist who says while country's maize industry has rebounded, it faces stiff export competition in part because 85 percent of South Africa's maize is genetically modified, possibly restricting penetration into African markets

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian catering association chairman says government should adopt GM technology to achieve self-sufficiency in food, benefit farmers

News: Vietnam Investment Review reports Vietnamese farmers are getting rich by raising herbicide, insect resistant corn

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports Central Institute for Cotton Research study finds farmer ignorance and non-compliance of refuge planting guidelines led to pink bollworm resistance in Bt cotton; poor germination by refuge seeds also cited

Commentary: Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre Executive Director Mahaletchumy Arujanan writes for Inter Press Service, criticizing fake news reports on GMOs by economist Jomo Kwame Sundaram and co-author Tan Zhai Gen, dispels claims about negative impact of GMOs and glyphosate, notes 18 million farmers would not choose GMOs if there were no benefits

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news site reports anti-GMO groups spill 250 kg of GM soybeans on roadway in front of soy event sponsored by Bayer

News: Tech Times reports researchers plan to release GMO diamondback moths designed to perish before reproduction to prevent destruction of cruciferous crops like broccoli and cabbage; despite criticism, including USDA saying it does not believe method will work, British biotech firm Oxitec thinks the next-gen reproductive female moths' numbers would be lowered, reducing their overall population

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade general manager says activists mislead people to believe organic food is healthier, doesn't use chemicals, and demonize other types of food, claiming they harm health

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto says it has not planted or marketed GM seeds in Campeche or Yucatan; notes it only sells seeds to producers

News: Ecuadoran news site reports Assembly to discuss objection to seed law draft that would allow GM seeds in country for research purposes, notes Constitution declares Ecuador as being "free of transgenics"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: News site on potato industry reports Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) called for submissions on application to permit a number of GM potato lines to reduce bruising and blight; FSANZ conducted safety assessment on application, comparing GM with non-GM potatoes, and found no public health or safety issues

News: Australian news site reports senator criticizes Greenpeace for opposing Golden Rice, vandalizing GM crops, Luddite outlook on biotech; also says PETA must be stopped before it destroys livestock industry

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 9:01:42 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

Global biotechnology monitoring so far this week featured developments related to U.S. regulation of genetically modified moths and gene editing, a bid to revive a GMO moratorium in Western Australia and ongoing advocacy surrounding GM mustard in India.

- *The Associated Press* reports Cornell University researchers are anticipating USDA approval of open-air tests of its GE moths designed to die before they can reproduce. Trials are expected to begin this summer. The development is receiving push back from the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, which voiced concerns about safety and impact on organic certification. **See more**
- *Nature Methods* published a study by Columbia University researchers finding CRISPR-Cas9 can introduce unintended mutations into the genome. Science media and blog amplification of the research claims the results draw into question a technology recently touted for its precision. **See more** NGO campaigning on U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulation of gene-edited plants and animals also picked up in advance of the June 19 comment period deadline. Center for Food Safety issued an action alert asking supporters to submit comments urging the agency to classify the foods as GMOs. The alert was amplified by Global Justice Ecology Project. Natural News also ran a piece on the comment period. **See more**
- The Australian NGO FOODwatch is calling for support of a recent motion by Western Australia Green Party member Diane Evers seeking reinstatement of the Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003, which would bring back the state's GM moratorium. **See more**
- Amid ongoing debate over the potential for India to permit commercialization of GM mustard, several publications ran an op-ed by Vandana Shiva arguing that "India as a democratic, sovereign country dies" if the crop is approved. **See more**

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North America

Review: Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Geoffrey Kabat writes in EMBO Reports claiming scientists need to stop pretending there is scientific consensus on controversial issues like EDCs, GMOs, pesticides to overcome public distrust in science

Commentary: Natural News reports on FDA decision to extend public comment period on its draft revised guidance on regulation of products of plant gene editing intended for use in human and animal food, as well as draft guidance on GE animals, the two comment periods will now close on June 19

Letter to the editor: Researchers from Columbia University, Stanford and University of Iowa submit letter to Nature Methods journal voicing concern about researchers using CRISPR-Cas9 to check for off-target mutations, claiming more work may be needed to increase the fidelity of CRISPR before it can be used without risk

News release: Columbia University professor who co-authored study in Nature Methods worries researchers using CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology and not using whole genome sequencing to

find off-target effects may be missing potentially important mutations

Commentary: Pro-GMO chemist James Cooper explains why Organic Consumers Association is the "worst organization in the world," debunks their claims about health and environmental effects of GMOs, as well as claims that neonics are responsible for bee declines, criticizes GMO labeling campaigns as promoting fear

News: Climate News Network reports on University of Illinois researchers' development of GM sugarcane capable of producing high levels of oil for use in biofuels without sacrificing sugar content, as well as GM soy varieties capable of surviving climate change related stressors

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news source reports Ugandan journalists recognized for excellent biotechnology and biosafety reporting; Director of Crop Resources says journalists play important role guiding policy makers regulating biosciences, and are critical in informing debate that will turn National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill into law

Commentary: Ugandan news source contributor amplifies University of Bonn study finding hunger will worsen as maize, wheat, rice, soybean production drop due to climate change; warns projection should be worrying for Uganda, other sub-Saharan countries already experiencing serious food crises; recommends improved farming changes including GM crops

Study: Economics of Disasters and Climate Change journal publishes study by German, Nigerian, Ethiopian researchers finding climate change will significantly impact global food supply by 2050, advocates mitigation and adaptation technologies to support global food production

News: Bloomberg reports on extremes in African corn harvest this year, as Southern African corn silos are overflowing while Eastern Africa faces food crisis, South Africa-based analyst Jacques Pienaar of Commodity Insight Africa notes GM grain restriction is one factor hindering trade, South African imports to Kenya are unlikely due to GMO ban

News: Ugandan news site reports farmers optimistic GM cassava engineered to resist Cassava Brown Streak Virus will help save the crop which can suffer up to 100 percent loss from the disease; adds protecting cassava with pesticides usually ineffective, rarely economic

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Tribune reports India's government "faces uphill task" amid ongoing resistance to GMO mustard; notes that apart from activist opposition, top BJP leaders are calling for extra caution "given the health and environmental issues involved"

Report: ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research scientists submit correspondence to Current Science, explaining findings that non-Bt seeds provided by Indian seed companies are ineffective as refuge due to non-compliance, authors call for development of proper testing methods to ensure compliance and monitoring of regulatory guidelines regarding GM crops

Report: Abstract submitted to Current Science summarizes research on whether Bt seeds provided by Indian seed companies are suitable as refuge for Bt cotton, authors discovered high levels of non-compliance, including presence of Bt seeds in refuge seed packets, which they note undermines efficacy of refuge areas

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on recent meeting between U.K.-based Tropic Biosciences and local researchers to discuss potential use of gene editing to produce disease-resistant banana and coffee crops, Truong Hong of Western Highlands Agro-forestry Scientific and Technical Institute (WASI) voiced willingness to explore alternatives via collaborative research

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes op-ed for Deccan Chronicle, believes approval of GM mustard will lead to death of India as a democratic, sovereign country, claims GM mustard is unnecessary as it does not have yield advantage over non-GM varieties, and that it will force farmers into debt

Commentary: Philippine news source editorial amplifies ISAAA report touting economic benefits of biotech crops, highlights earnings from Bt corn, notes other biotech crops in pipeline, including Golden Rice, cotton, papaya, eggplant

Commentary: Indian business news outlet contributor examines controversy surrounding GM mustard, highlighting activist claims about safety, lack of yield advantage, and Bayer's stake in one of the traits, believes that as the government continues to be secretive, a clear resolution of the dispute seems unlikely

More Asia items

Europe

News: Slovakian news agency reports illegal GM petunias found within Slovakia, cites no environmental risk but government looking into cause of importation

News: Vogue magazine's Portugal edition amplifies study by Cotton Inc. claiming it takes more than twice as much water to create T-shirt from organic cotton versus GM cotton, along with more electricity and carbon dioxide emissions due to larger land mass to get similar yield

Commentary: Italian human rights-focused publication amplifies multiple campaigns against Monsanto, focuses on health issues from glyphosate, decision from NGO tribunal and its "abuse" of farmers in developing countries

News: Swiss news outlet reports Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) informs head of the JardinSuisse branch of decision that thousands of GM petunias discovered to be on the market must be destroyed, noting they do not pose risks to humans or the environment, Othmar Ziswiler of JardinSuisse notes the orange petunias were not a best-seller

Commentary: Anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM amplifies French government's adoption of Nagoya Protocol specifying rules for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge

News release: No patents on seed! alliance welcomes European Patent Office's (EPO) planned strengthening of existing prohibitions on patents on plants and animals from conventional breeding, but identifies several loopholes, calls for improvements

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Friends of the Earth radio station in Uruguay upset at government for releasing three new GM maize varieties, claims increased use of dicamba herbicide destroys environment, activist groups started petition opposing GM crops

Interview: Mexican news outlet shares AgroBIO CEO's opinion that biotechnology could help Mexico's agricultural needs given changing climate, uses success and profitability of GM cotton as proof GM corn can succeed

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor reports on model Gisele Bündchen's recent Tweet sharing Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection's (Idec) petition against proposal to end GMO labeling, claims GMOs are harmful to the environment and put health of farmers and consumers at risk

Commentary: Yucatan news outlet contributor summarizes ongoing struggle to maintain the region as

GMO-free, claims GM soybeans and glyphosate damage the environment and threaten bee populations, highlights IARC's review of glyphosate's carcinogenicity, emphasizes importance of consultation process on transgenic soy

Commentary: Brazilian nutritionist writes for local news outlet, advising readers to look out for foods labeled as transgenic, claims GMOs and their associated pesticides are harmful to human health and damaging to the environment

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Western Australian anti-GM group amplifies parliamentary motion to reinstate the GM Crops Free Areas Act 2003, group asks members to contact MPs to show support for GM-Free WA

Announcement: Western Australia Parliament announces motion seeking reinstatement of Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003 after government spoke vigorously against the Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Repeal Bill 2015

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 30, 2017
Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 3:19 58 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A shipment of 36 million pounds of soybeans arrived in California in December labeled as organic. Except the beans weren't actually organic, as an investigation by The Washington Post revealed. The issue is explored in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter as Julie Kelly writes for *National Review* on the questions raised about organic labeling. In another piece, a Colorado weekly deems it "Big Organic Behaving Badly" and calls the actions "much worse than Monsanto," a frequent target of organic industry claims.

Other articles offer support for the commercialization of GM mustard in India, outline "substantial flaws" in highly publicized claims that endocrine-disrupting chemicals result in billions of dollars in health-care costs and examine newly released statistics showing bee colony survival rates improved in the United States last year.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: David Bronner

David Bronner is leading donor and key facilitator of aggressive anti-GMO advocacy.

Stories Worth Sharing

Julie Kelly: Washington Post investigation spurs new questions about authenticity of organic labels - and the practices behind them

Vivian Fernandes: Modi government should approve GM mustard, allow farmers to decide whether to plant it

Alex Berezow: Real scientists don't trust Environmental Working Group due to its "half-truths and complete fabrications" about chemicals

U.S., German researchers find "substantial flaws" in recent studies estimating high health cost from endocrine-disrupting chemicals

Kenyan columnist: Those who think 40 million Kenyans will be fed by organic farming are "daydreaming," GM technology needed

William Dar: Criticisms of GM crops are "all unfounded," science and technology key to increasing crop production

Southwest Farm Press: Improved U.S. bee colony survival encouraging, but more work to be done

Hidde Boersma: I used to think Greenpeace was great but now I know

Bronner is president of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps - a leading organic and natural product company with estimated annual sales of US$100 million. Bronner's campaigns have included launching the "Fishy Fleet," and he is a leading donor to Food & Water Watch and U.S. Right to Know.

Learn more about David Bronner HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

the science

Paul Danish: Buyers should beware organic and GMO-free labels after Washington Post findings about Aurora Dairy

Hank Campbell: Kremlin manipulating U.S. Right to Know's Gary Ruskin, other environmentalists

Shivendra Bajaj: GM crops offer potential solution to "improve water use efficiency and battle climate change"

Mary-Dell Chilton: Development of first transgenic plant "paved the way" for today's advanced crop improvement technologies

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

South Asia Biotechnology Center petition seeks approval of GM mustard in India as Vandana Shiva, other activists try to block it

European Commission again delays vote on proposed EDC criteria; could be rescheduled for mid-June

U.S. bee colony loss survey shows improved survival rates, best winter loss rate in survey's history

More than 200 experts ask next World Health Organization director-general to address factory farms, antibiotic resistance

U.S. House passes Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act that would allow pesticide usage near navigable waterways

Calendar highlights

May 30	June 1-2	June 4-8
EU EDC criteria vote	Sustainable Foods Summit in Amsterdam	14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (Guadalajara, Mexico)
June 5	**June 6-7**	**June 6-13**
United Nations World Environment Day	AgChem Summit 2017: Regulations for Biologicals	International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph meeting

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database
More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

Bonus Eventus community
Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 26-28, 2017
Date: Sunday, May 28, 2017 11:56:44 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 monitoring featured GMO-related response to President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, new discussion of the U.S. GMO labeling rule and an announced Swiss Federal Assembly meeting on GMO policy.

- The American Society of Plant Biologists' response to Trump's proposed budget voiced concern about proposed cuts to USDA's intramural research program as well as other ag research programs, emphasizing the importance of plant science research for the economy. **See more**
- Multiple media reports suggested industry efforts to time the Nutrition Facts update with GMO labeling requirements may be part of FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb's decision to have the agency reevaluate the Nutrition Facts timeline. Meanwhile, *Food Navigator*'s coverage of the recent American Conference Institute food law and regulation forum featured comments from USDA's Andrea Huberty noting the agency is aware of concerns that products of gene editing may be exempt from the new GMO labeling law and emphasizing that USDA is not planning to define "non-GMO" and natural claims. **See more**
- A Swiss news site reported the Federal Assembly is set to review GMO policy early next week, which may include finalizing a new four-year extension to the moratorium banning the use of GMOs in agriculture. **See more**

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, May. 30. 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: Canadian science news outlet investigates rumors circulating online about widespread presence of GMOs in Quebec grocery stores, Thibault Rehn of NGO Vigilance OGM clears up misconceptions about GM soy in tofu, concludes that there are currently no GM fresh foods for sale in Quebec, and that genetic content in most processed foods is undetectable

News release: USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today announces 54 grants totaling more than $17.7 million for plant research, with goal of optimizing crop production, mitigating disease, and increasing yield, funding is made possible through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program

News: Canadian farming news outlet reports on University of Alberta dean of agriculture Stan Blade's optimism that bananas will survive in some form or another, highlights his research developing varieties that are resistant to bacterial wilt

Commentary: "Science Moms" documentary director Natalie Newell writes for Genetic Literacy Project, recounts her email exchange with Blue Apron as she questioned the meal delivery service's non-GMO food policy, discredits Blue Apron's assertion that the long-term health and environmental impacts of GMOs are undetermined

News: Canadian ag news outlet reports on reactions to Bayer's announcement that it will sell its Liberty

product line to assuage antitrust concerns, Janice Tranberg of Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission voiced relief, as Bayer would have owned 95 percent of canola traits, but independent dealers worry about disruption of access

Commentary: Middle school teacher and science blogger Stephan Neidenbach writes in Medium that Consumer Reports deceives consumers by calling non-GMO labels "highly meaningful"; cites FDA position and disputes claims Non-GMO Project and Consumer Reports are free from conflict of interest

Commentary: GMO Pundit blog posts abstract from Journal of Medical Ethics by post doctoral fellow at Columbia University on how vaccine controversies provide lessons "to strike a balance with CRISPR"; says history of vaccines "serves as a pertinent example of what could go wrong if a technology's reach is shortened due to inflated fear"

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast examines history of GE in crops, featuring Dr. Maurice Moloney in discussion of his work at Calgene and with early issues in transgenic crops, as well as future outlook for the science

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian environmental news outlet reports on recent meeting with Minister of State, Environment, Ibrahim Usman Jibril, where anti-GMO activists demanded increased funding for research in home-grown technology, Nnimmo Bassey of Health of Mother Earth Foundation points to Burkina Faso's rejection of Bt cotton as an example

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on joint showcase for journalists organized by National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), where Dr. Titus Alicai explained current research in GM disease-resistant cassava varieties, as well as conservation research

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Op-ed on Indian news site by freelance journalist/social activist warns of threat from GM mustard, claims GM crops resisted around world because of "widely acknowledged health and safety hazards"

Commentary: Dr. Truong Hong Son of Institute of Applied Medical Sciences Vietnam writes for local news outlet, explains what GMOs are and examines debate over their safety, notes GMOs are strictly regulated, and have been deemed safe by regulatory agencies and scientific studies throughout the world

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on US FDA's approval of Del Monte Fresh Produce's GM pink pineapple variety, producing lower enzyme levels, which convert pink lycopene pigments from yellow beta carotene, FDA notes lycopene is usually safe for consumption

News: Times of India reports on Indian Institute of Millets Research's (IIMR) successful development of a Bt sorghum variety, Southern Action on Genetic Engineering (SAGE) wrote a letter demanding Central Government reject it, claiming it will disrupt biodiversity and alleging its development results from Global Food Security Act

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet reports on several misconceptions about sweet corn, notes that while many people are concerned about eating GM sweet corn, the only GM corn grown in Vietnam is for animal feed

More Asia items

Europe

News: French TV news site reports on images of GM pink pineapples trending on Instagram and Twitter, say there is "little chance" they will flood local markets soon given Europe's stricter standards for GM foods

News: French news outlet reports on anti-GMO activists from Confédération Paysanne's protest, in which they re-labeled seed packets for sale to inform consumers that the products contain GMOs, activist Mélanie Van De Casteel argued seed growers want to appropriate nature and evade regulation

Commentary: Organic & Non-GMO Report's Ken Roseboro examines increasing number of non-GMO labeling programs in Europe as consumer demand for non-GMO products rises, highlights efforts by Austria-based Danube Soya to create a harmonized Non-GMO labeling program across Europe to prevent trade barriers caused by different standards

Video: Bjorn Lomborg of Copenhagen Consensus Center examines reasons why organic foods are no safer, healthier or better for the environment than conventional foods, pointing to recent study which found that economic cost if the US went completely organic would be $200 billion annually, concludes that organic claims are only a marketing tactic

Commentary: French ag blog examines history of farmers' practices of regulating seeds, noting peasants began the seed trade back in the 16th century, argues the reality is more nuanced than blaming multinationals

Commentary: Opinion piece on Dutch news site argues complex problem of hunger is not solved by GM technology, saying GMO seeds push farmers into dependency and resulting monocultures are "detrimental to soil life and overall biodiversity"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: General manager of Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade writes op-ed in Bolivian newspaper amplifying Nobel laureates letter in favor of Golden Rice and agricultural biotechnology; concludes "opposition based on emotions and dogma that contradict facts must be stopped"

News: Argentine news site reports Kumagro plans to double plantings of non-GM soybeans in country due to strong demand, particularly from EU; company will also expand non-GM soy regionally and says non-contamination with GM soy essential

News: Mexican news site reports NGO coalition claims government has failed to enforce Supreme Court ruling prohibiting planting of GM soy in Campeche state, calls on authorities to comply and guarantee rights of Mayan communities

News: Ecuadorian news site reports NGO Accion Ecologica is fighting partial veto by outgoing president Rafael Correa to country's seed law to allow GM research, saying experimentation is "open door to legalization"

Commentary: Law professor on Brazilian news site claims country's consumer protection code not followed for GMOs or foods with high amounts of pesticides, says information on health and environmental risks lacking, argues for banning "foods which endanger health of consumers"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports GM ryegrass developed in New Zealand which reduces methane emissions in livestock and improves nutritional value and drought tolerance is being tested in US in five-year field and animal nutrition trial program

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 25, 2017
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017 9:03:19 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 monitoring highlights included commentaries on the *Washington Post's* recent series on organic food certification. Activists continued to campaign against GM mustard, and an Indian Parliamentarian is leading a panel discussion on the crop.

- Two reports, one by Julie Kelly in the *National Review* and another in the *Boulder Weekly*, amplified the series in *The Washington Post* on fraudulent organic labeling. Kelly noted that importing organic food defeats the organic industry's claims of environmental sustainability. (**see more**) *Boulder Weekly* columnist Paul Danish suggested organic inspectors may overlook fraud because they're paid by those they inspect (**see more**).
- Indian congressional leader Renuka Chowhurdy is meeting with industry, science and activist stakeholders to discuss GM mustard and review the crop's impact on the environment and health. Meanwhile, a former cabinet member and professor wrote opinion pieces opposing the crop, claiming it would cause health problems. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Julie Kelly writes for National Review, amplifies Washington Post investigation of fraudulent organic labeling on imported grains, argues that heavily relying on imports defeats organic industry's appeal of environmental sustainability, believes Ag Secretary Perdue should take a close look at the organic system

Commentary: Katherine Paul of Organic Consumers Association examines necessary steps to put momentum of March Against Monsanto protests into meaningful action, highlights need to end corporate influence over politicians, calls on supporters to start or join a #Resist and Regenerate Meetup group

Commentary: Natural Blaze contributor reports on USDA's investigation of unapproved GM petunias in the market, believes that if consumers refuse to buy them and complain to retailers, it will have an impact on GMO takeover of the food supply and other plant species

Commentary: Science mom and former organic supporter writing in Canadian news outlet recalls being shunned by anti-GM groups when she began seeking facts about GM crops; frustrated by the groupthink, she now runs several fact-based Facebook sites to educate others

Commentary: Washington Post contributor examines several reasons why it is difficult to verify authenticity of organic foods, in light of recent investigation of fraudulently labeled grain imports, notes the problem stems beyond USDA, argues that increasing regulatory oversight in the US will boost foreign trade relationships by reassuring consumers

News: Quartz reports on recent study led by geneticist Zachary Lippman of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory using CRISPR to make several improvements to tomato crops, University of Arizona in

Tucson geneticist Rod Wing, unaffiliated with the study, noted the approach has potential form improving all crops

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund chair Paul Boateng writes for Science and Development Network, emphasizing importance of investing in science and technology for sustainable development in Africa, highlights development of drought-tolerant maize varieties and biofortified sweet potatoes

Announcement: Africa Centre for Biodiversity promotes new document criticizing Dow's 2,4-D-resistant GM maize on field trial in South Africa; claims crop does not control weeds or pests, reduce pesticide use, nor reduce farmers' costs

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor criticizes Nigeria's biosafety agencies for promoting GM technology while relying on Western industry studies, claims GMOs have not been proven safe for humans and the environment, also claims GMOs do not sufficiently boost yields

More Africa items

Asia

News: South China Morning Post reports Chinese farmers see successful yields and decreased pesticide use from using illegal hybrid Bt cotton seeds; potential for India cotton farmers fighting worm resistance, scientists urging Chinese government to amend regulations and approve hybrid seeds

Commentary: Dr. William Dar writes for Manila Times, reflecting on his recent speech at Philippine Association of Research Managers' (PhilArm) awarding ceremonies, promotes use of biotech crops as a great tool to boost smallholder farmers' productivity, emphasizes GMO safety to human health and the environment

News: Indonesian news site reports Yogyakarta governor says country needs to use biotechnology to increase crop yields, noting decreasing amount of arable land due to population growth

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor amplifies Swadeshi Jagran Manch's (SJM) letter to Prime Minister Modi in opposition to commercialization of GM mustard, believes many of their concerns are valid and that it should be approached with caution, highlights claims about health and environmental risks, and that Bayer owns the technology

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch food ingredients news site reports on food ingredient supplier Archer Daniels Midland Company's investment in non-GMO options due to increased demand, ADM's Gerd Mueller noted they have secured a new supply chain, creating a sustainable supply of non-GMO material

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news site reports House approves changes to GM labeling, Senate committee to vote on bill next; says most of public does not want the changes, which includes removing transgenic symbol recognizable even among illiterate, allows lab tests only on finished product

Commentary: Mexican news site reporter notes UNAM professor says agribusinesses attempt to control food in Mexico, rest of world by using GMOs, pesticides that harm environment, health

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - May 24, 2017
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:18:20 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 monitoring highlights included a media report that the Indian government is leaning toward approving GM mustard commercialization.

- Indian news site *Financial Express* reported the Indian government is indicating it may approve GM mustard commercialization under new Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan after the ministry released a FAQ affirming the crop's safety. Meanwhile, the South Asia Biotechnology Centre began a petition urging the government to stand up to aggressive anti-biotech activists and approve GM mustard. **See more**.
- *Capital Press* reported opponents of an Oregon bill that would establish liability for GM contamination argue the proposal would be a de facto GMO ban because it would triple the economic damage caused by unwanted GMOs. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Biology professor blogs on logical inconsistencies of numerous anti-GMO activists defending ideology when confronted with science, claims most ignore large bodies of evidence while focusing on low-quality studies while inventing baseless conspiracy theories

News: CBC reports Innate GM potatoes with potential to use 50 percent less herbicides will not be commercially grown in Canada this year; company says it is not yet a proven market

Report: ETC Group proposes approach to sustainable sci-tech governance to United Nations STI Forum; includes promotion of organic and agroecology while noting concerns over uses of gene and other technologies as "false solutions"

News: New York Times reports on proposed merger between Swiss mining and energy giant Glencore and commodity company Bunge, which would make Glencore a major player in US ag commodity markets, especially grain, and adds to current industry consolidation amid pending biotech/chemical company mergers

Commentary: Jeffrey Smith of Institute for Responsible Technology voices opposition to commercialization of GM mustard in India, claiming that the science is corrupt, that it will not boost yields, and that it will threaten human health and the environment, hopes Environment Ministry will reject it

News release: Duke research blogger reports Duke University, Chinese researchers developed disease-resistant rice that doesn't sacrifice yield

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian newspaper reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation, some scientists call for repeal of the National Biosafety Act; claim conflict of interest was built into the National Biosafety Management Agency Act, raising acute red flags about the administration of biosafety in Nigeria

Commentary: Nigerian news source contributor amplifies Environmental Working Group's latest Clean 15, Dirty Dozen lists, claiming it helps consumers control amounts of pesticides entering body

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: European Commission magazine focused on research and innovation claims CRISPR technology can help meet world's growing demand for food, highlights ability to improve the quality and nutritional value of food, potentially allergens; notes potential use on potatoes in Europe, wheat in Bangladesh

News: The Hindu reports Vandana Shiva and anti-GM activist groups in India questioning increased yield claims for GM mustard, argue there's "no reason to jeopardise the security of India's farming, food, human health"

News: Global Times reports new trade deal may expedite Chinese imports of modified American seeds as Chinese government engages in publicity campaign to ease public concerns over GMO technology; notes Mark Lynas' visits to Chinese universities

News: Financial Express reports India's ag ministry "not reconciled" with Monsanto's dominance of the nation's cottonseed industry; Additional Solicitor General believes GM traits protected under the Patents Act can "threaten the country's food security"

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany's Social Democratic Party criticizes CDU / CSU parties for failing to ban GM cultivation, attempting to replace "tried-and-tested" precautionary principle with new "innovation principle"

Commentary: European Commission magazine focused on research and innovation claims CRISPR technology can help meet world's growing demand for food, highlights ability to improve the quality and nutritional value of food, potentially allergens; notes potential use on potatoes in Europe, wheat in Bangladesh

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor notes Russian genomic engineer says banning GMOs is big risk for Russia, which could otherwise use CRISPr to reach higher production rates; notes Russia allows import and research on GMOs, which may hold key to country's agricultural future

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadoran NGO Accion Ecologica criticizes outgoing President Rafael Correa for allowing entry of GM seeds and crops for research purposes, says it goes against law protecting biodiversity, says research facilities can spread GM contamination through wind, pollinators

News release: Brazilian research agency announces country developed country's first long-fiber, GM cotton; product meets need for high quality fiber

News: Brazilian news site reports Senate commission to vote on GM labeling bill May 25; bill would remove yellow "T" used to denote "transgenic," will label only products 1% or more GM ingredients; consumer groups oppose bill

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE Free NZ claims GM cotton seed oil containing "toxic chemical" 2,4-D is being used in area restaurants; says pesticide harms health, embryo development, and disrupts endocrine function

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 monitoring highlights included ongoing coverage of the GM mustard debate in India and plans for Brazilian lawmakers to consider changing GMO labeling policies.

- At an event marking the launch of her book, Vandana Shiva claimed India's late environment minister did not support the commercial use of GM mustard. News sites reported that RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch announced at the same news conference that it wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing GM mustard. The new environment minister stated that he will not comment on GM mustard until he goes through the files and speaks with scientists. **See more**.
- The Brazilian Federal Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform will vote Wednesday (May 24) on a proposal to limit GM food labeling to products containing greater than 1 percent of GM material. The bill would also remove current letter T label for foods with GM material. **See more**.
- March Against Monsanto announced that 11 protestors were arrested after blocking the entrance to a Monsanto facility in Woodland, California. The demonstrations continue to generate only local media coverage. **See more**
- A French court set a June 16 hearing for activists with the Volunteer Reapers who destroyed glyphosate products at two French retailers last September. The group hopes to use the trial as an opportunity to raise awareness of the harmful effects of glyphosate and GMOs, noting it has five key witnesses prepared to testify. **See more**

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North America

News: Food/agriculture industry news sites report conflicting reactions to defeat of GM food labeling bill in Canadian parliament; Food and Consumer Products of Canada argues rigorous testing shows GM foods to be safe, so labels are unnecessary

Commentary: In The Hill, executive director of Global Harvest Initiative argues current regulatory systems need to be "unshackled" to allow innovation in ag biotech and gene edited-crops, representatives for farmers and USDA officials gathering May 24 to discuss achieving smart regulatory systems

News release: Friends of the Earth Canada claims Canadian legislators have let consumers down by defeating Bill C-291 to require mandatory labeling of GM foods

Video: GMO skeptic Nick Saik and his father Robert debate benefits of GMOs, Saik highlights Mark Sheehan of Hawaii's SHAKA movement's statements on dangers of pesticides, as well as papaya grower Ken Kamiya's support of GM technology, as it saved Hawaii's papaya industry

Commentary: EcoWatch columnist concerned about open-air field trials of GM moths in New York, dismayed USDA did not extend comment period to allow more time to assess the decision

News: Politico Pro reports biotech crop producers would be subject to user fees under Trump administration's USDA funding proposal

Commentary: Natural News warns "cheap" vitamins are made with GMO glucose syrup fed to bacteria; tells readers to look for organic foods naturally rich in vitamins

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on actor Joseph Okechukwu's recent statement against GMOs, in which he claims that most fruits on the market are GMOs, claims organizations such as Gates Foundation seek to push GM technology on Africa with goal of reducing the population

News: Kenyan news source reports crop experts says mulitfaceted approaches, such as strategic intercropping, biolgoical controls, and genetic engineering, should be considered as counters against armyworms

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports on RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch's (SJM) letter to Prime Minister Modi in opposition to commercialization of GM mustard as recommended by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), claiming that it is patented by Bayer, toxic, and will not boost yields

News: Press Trust of India reports on Vandana Shiva's claims that late Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave did not support commercial use of GM mustard, she believes he was not ready to sign the proposal, and reiterated claims about the Bayer-Monsanto cartel and GM crops leading to increase in farmer suicides

Commentary: Church of South India ecology department issues press statement objecting to introduction of GM mustard on multiple grounds; pleads with government to reject GEAC's recommendations and declare India GM free

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor lists 10 reasons to be concerned about GM mustard, claims it does not have a yield advantage over non-GM varieties, points to health risks associated with glufosinate, claiming it is similar to glyphosate, highlights recent controversy surrounding glyphosate's carcinogenicity

News: Indian business news outlet reports Union Science of Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan takes charge of Environment Ministry following Anil Dave's death, Vardhan notes he will not make a call on GM mustard until he has gone over all the details, activists call on him to reject it

Campaign: Seed Freedom urges supporters to sign Pact for Diversity in honor of World Biodiversity Day on May 22, speaking out against patents on seeds and "corporate takeover of our food and health," promotes agroecology

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Slovakian news outlet reports on critical acclaim surrounding "Okja" at Cannes Film Festival, claiming the film about a GM pig bred for slaughter and a critique of Western society could win the Palme d'Or award

News: French environment-focused news site reports Germany struggling enact European Union's opt-out for GMO cultivation into national legislation

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on Commission on Genetic Modification's (COGEM) continued belief that expansion of monitoring, with focus on locations where presence of wild GM oilseed rape populations is most likely, is necessary prior to granting Monsanto's request for GM canola import license

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming June 16 trial of 10 Volunteer Reapers for actions against sale of glyphosate-based herbicide products in two Ariège stores, defendant Dominique Masset wants to use the trial to put Monsanto on the defense, Volunteer Reapers have called expert witnesses to speak on negative impact of GMOs

Commentary: Candidate for legislative elections in Lorient, France proudly notes French city has served as model for fighting against GMOs and their multinational corporations; says local population must continue to resist, calls for utopian agricultural model that "keeps farmers alive and does not destroy soils and water"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Ecuador news outlet reports legislature to analyze partial objection of the draft Law on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture; outgoing president wants to amend law to allow entry of GM crops for investigative purposes

News: El Salvador news outlet reports agricultural entrepreneurs believe biotechnology is key to providing higher yields and meeting needs of future population, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock disagrees

News: Argentine news outlet reports Argentine Agrarian Federation claims Monsanto should be sanctioned for harming small farmers by not adhering to country's Patent Law that allows for seeds to be reproduced

Announcement: Brazilian Federal Senate indicates Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform will vote (May 24) on labeling of foods with greater than 1 percent GM material in finished product, would also remove current letter T label for foods with GM material; opponents feel it goes against citizens' rights

More Latin America items

Oceania

Audio: New Zealand podcast site features head of GE Free New Zealand, she says country's role in developing GE trees could have devastating effects overseas; adds her group is concerned private company developing the GE trees for export doesn't share research results

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 monitoring featured a report on China's plans to conduct a survey on its citizens' attitudes toward GMOs, ongoing coverage of whether the Indian government will approve GM mustard commercialization and news that an Oregon House committee will hold a hearing on a bill to establish liability for contamination from GM crops.

- *Bloomberg* reported that the Chinese government plans a nationwide poll next month to determine the public's acceptance of GMOs. The survey will be conducted in tandem with a social media campaign with basic knowledge on biotechnology. **See more**.
- Upon the announcement that India's minister of science and technology, Harsh Vardhan, will also oversee the environment ministry, activists including the Coalition for a GM-free India complained that the arrangement presents a conflict of interest in the government's decision whether to commercialize GM mustard. Although reports have not speculated on what Vardhan will decide, the environment ministry published an FAQ document to address concerns about the crop, and the agriculture ministry issued a statement indicating it has no reservations about GM mustard. **See more**.
- An Oregon House committee scheduled a hearing Tuesday (May 23) to consider a bill that would assign damages for GMO contamination of non-GM crops to the crop's patent-holder. The NGO Our Family Farmers issued an action alert calling on state lawmakers to approve the bill. **See more**
- Coverage of this weekend's March Against Monsanto protests remains limited to local news outlets with little high-impact coverage. *Russia Today* and *Agencia EFE* are among the few major outlets to recap the demonstrations. Switzerland-based March Against Monsanto and Syngenta issued a release claiming there were 2,000 protestors at its event. **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: Science magazine brief notes plant geneticists discover, tweak genes responsible for how tomatoes branch to double production; research article published in Cell

News release: Quebec Grain Producers speak out on inaccurate information falsely claiming use of GM crops increased risk index linked to pesticides by the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, urges government to rectify error immediately

Commentary: Mary-Dell Chilton writes for Medium as part of GMO Answers' series on revolutionary female leaders in science and agriculture, she describes her involvement in development of the first transgenic plant, which opened the door to creating crops that are resistant to disease, pests and drought, and that are more nutritious

Commentary: Food Babe warns about dangers of ice creams made with "Monsanto milk" from cows fed GMO grains; warns about glyphosate, antibiotics, hormones in milk; promotes organic, non-GMO

ingredients; alleges ingredient cottonseed oil is made from GMO cotton crops given intense application of pesticides

Commentary: Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine medical director Mark Hyman warns about risks of GMOs, claims GM crops don't fulfill promises, create need for additional use of cancer-causing pesticides; claims no long-term studies on health safety; alleges GMOs bad for environment

Event: Oregon House Rules Committee will hold public hearing (May 23) on House Bill 2739 establishing liability for GM crops growing on land without consent of owner

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Kenyan columnist argues GM crops key to feeding growing population, don't cause cancer; blasts NGOs who demonize GM food, ignore scientists

Interview: Nigerian news site talks with country representative to FAO, who notes FAO will not force countries to adopt GMOs and Nigeria has not requested help to develop biotechnolgy; states GM crops can foster agricultural development, food security, nutrition

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) researchers' development of improved yam and taro varieties for farmers, designed to withstand drought and pests, and that can thrive without use of fertilizers, no genes are modified

More Africa items

Asia

News: Bloomberg reports China will conduct June national survey on GMOs ahead of campaign to promote GM crops; notes ChemChina takeover of Syngenta means growth in China, national plan to grow GM crops by 2020; mentions Chinese review of imports for U.S. GMO strains

News: Press Trust of India reports on Ag Ministry's statement that it has no reservations about GM mustard, and will promote GM crops if approved by Environment Ministry, Ag Minister Radha Mohan Singh pointed to ministry mandate to increase production, productivity, bring down production costs and ensure right prices to farmers

Report: Indian Environment Ministry issues FAQ document on GM mustard, the document emphasizes safety of GM mustard for human and animal consumption, and includes a table detailing which environmental and food safety tests were conducted

Commentary: Coalition for a GM-Free India letter to new environment minister calls for rejection of GM mustard; claims holding position while also serving as minister of science and technology is conflict of interest due to promotion and funding of GMO research; alleges health, environmental risks of GM crops

News: Indonesian news outlet reports biotech oil palm seeds approved by ministry of agriculture have potential to increase productivity of palm oil by 10 tons per hectare per year

News: Indonesian news outlet reports Professor of Agricultural Economics claims country's ag production capacity has declined below others in region, advises more attention to ideas like biotech crops to help reach food self-sufficiency

Interview: Vietnamese news site talks with Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences vice director, professor about fear-based public perception of GMOs; praises GM crops as high-yielding, good quality, adaptable to climate change

More Asia items

Europe

News: Farmers Guardian reports Defra figures reveal that organic crops have shown an overall decline in the U.K. since the late 2000s, mirroring the fall in land area farmed organically since 2008

News: Dutch news outlet reports Dutch Food Safety Authority seized property and bank accounts of unnamed company suspected of grant fraud; company received several million Euros for GMO research since 2010

Commentary: Daily Mail writer warns of danger of illegal "franken flowers" to crops, bees; claims petunias have maize DNA to produce orange flowers; Defra now requires retailers of suspected GM petunias to destroy them; notes Canadian GM oilseed plants led to overweight butterflies, deformed wings

Commentary: Bulgarian news site opinion piece by business attorney discusses European, Bulgarian GMO production, label laws; calls for legislation requiring labels on meat from animals given GMO feed; questions honesty of producers, enforcement authorities to ensure correct labels

News release: Switzerland's March against Monsanto & Syngenta on May 20 drew 2,000 demonstrators against pesticides, GMOs and industry mega-mergers, 1,300 people demonstrated in front of Monsanto's headquarters, Zoë Roth of the Organizing Committee noted high participation demonstrates demand for shift to ecological ag

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM presents updates on Germany's 2016 efforts to pass a bill on banning GM crop cultivation, highlighting SPD member Elvira Drobinski-Weiß's recent announcement that the bill was buried, due to CDU/CSU parliamentary group's refusal to take into account proposed changes to allow prohibition at federal level

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Spanish news agency reports March Against Monsanto protest in Puerto Rico denounces Fiscal Supervision Board (JSF) for supporting interests of agricultural biotechnology; protests also focus on health and environmental damages to island; Monsanto responds safety is top priority

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports outgoing president proposes allowing GM research, anti-GM group Acción Ecológica says change would violate seed law condition of keeping country free of GM seeds and crops

Commentary: Economics professor in Mexican news outlet questions why country opposes GM maize when 14 million tons were imported from US in 2016, says financial opportunities wasted by not allowing cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Please 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.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 22, 2017
Date: Monday, May 22, 2017 4:01:04 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's newsletter opens with a series of articles pointing out the science behind controversial crop protection and biotechnology issues. In *Forbes*, Kavin Senapathy offers a comparison of the anti-GMO movement to claims that vaccines cause autism. "These movements are based in conspiracy theories, plain and simple," she writes. Henry Miller, in *Project Syndicate*, offers a rebuttal to a United Nations special rapporteur report by suggesting that denying access to sustainable food production is a human rights violation. And in *New York Magazine*, Jenny Splitter raises the question of what Whole Foods would look like if it had science-based labels with factual information about GMOs, pesticides and antibiotics.

Additionally, several pieces examine the potential for genetically modified mustard in India, urging the federal government to grant final permission for the crop to be commercialized. Voices supporting the crop's commercialization included the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group and *The Hindu* newspaper.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: Generations Futures

As the European Commission again considers seeking a vote to approve criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals, Generations

Stories Worth Sharing

Kavin Senapathy: Like anti-vaccine campaigns, anti-GMO movement causes "unconscionable suffering" and should be shelved

Henry Miller: UN special rapporteur wrong on biotech and pesticides; denying sustainable ag approaches is real human rights violation

Jenny Splitter: Whole Foods should start "science-based labeling" instead of peddling false claims about GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics

Greg Jaffe: USDA needs science-based system to regulate gene-edited crops

IFPRI's Avinash Kishore: India should approve GM mustard as "overwhelming scientific evidence for net benefit and minimal risks of GMOs"

MEP Daniel Dalton: Evidence for European neonic ban is "woefully lacking," consequences would be severe

The Hindu: Indian government must base GM mustard decision on science, place "reason over politics"

Washington Policy Center: Commercial beekeepers see Varroa mites,

Futures and other NGOs are pushing for standards that would take pesticides off the market. A vote could reportedly take place May 30, although there are indications a qualified majority still does not exist.

The French NGO has long been active in pushing for restrictions on pesticides, releasing a series of nine so-called EXPPERT reports that tested for the presence of EDCs in hair samples in prominent public figures and EDC residues on cereals, among other things. Generations Futures last week asked for a meeting with new Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot to discuss endocrine disruptors.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Generations Futures.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

not pesticides, as primary cause of hive losses

Amanda Zaluckyj: Obama's comments on looking at science on GMOs a "balanced approach" that would allow agriculture to progress

Mark Lynas: Divided Communist Party, conspiracy theories create "deadlock" for GM crop approvals in China

Nigerian researchers: Benefits of biotechnology outweigh downsides, more funding should be encouraged

ABLE-AG executive director: 10 compelling reasons why India should incorporate biotechnology into agriculture

Genetic Literacy Project infographic identifies top "fear profiteers" who make the most off alarmist claims about GMOs

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

India's environment minister considers whether to approve commercialization of domestically developed GM mustard

European Commission plans May 30 vote on proposed criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals

European Commission considers 10-year reauthorization for glyphosate; decision reportedly unlikely until at least June

Friends of the Earth promotes research by University of Sussex's Goulson claiming most garden center plants contain neonics

Natural Resources Defense Council claims Walmart, Kroger, Costco, other retailers fail tor promote responsible antibiotic practices

Calendar highlights

May 25	May 25	May 26-29
American Feed Industry Association "Communication with Shared Values" webinar	Vandana Shiva lecture at University of Winnipeg	Sun Valley Wellness Festival featuring Vandana Shiva, Wayne Pacelle
May 30	June 1-2	June 4-8
EU EDC criteria vote	Sustainable Foods Summit in Amsterdam	14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (Guadalajara, Mexico)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017 10:36:24 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 monitoring highlights include reports on March Against Monsanto events around the world. An Indian state assembly passed a resolution against GM mustard and a parliament member wants to call a Punjab Assembly special session to pass a similar resolution.

- Alternative and mainstream media covered March Against Monsanto events across the world, although coverage through Sunday afternoon did not include wire services or major outlets in the United States. Protesters focused on Monsanto's seed policy and glyphosate, and Canadian protesters targeted GM labeling. A Monsanto release indicated the company focuses on feeding people and keeping the planet safe. **See more**.
- The Indian state of Kerala's legislative assembly passed a resolution rejecting GM mustard. Indian Parliament member Dharimvira Ghandi called for a special assembly of the state of Punjab's Assembly to vote on a similar resolution. Ghandi claimed the central government is willing to destroy the country's biodiversity to benefit companies such as Monsanto and Dow. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines recent reports of increased colon cancer rates among Millennials, warns against making unscientific simple associations between GMOs and increased cancer rates, noting similar colon cancer rates were observed in the 1890s

Commentary: Science mom writer in NY Magazine suggests food shopping revolution based on science and not misleading marketing like Non-GMO Project labels, claims copper sulfate and chlorpyrifos used in organic and conventional ag more toxic than glyphosate

Commentary: Natural News critical of $3 million FDA plans to spend on consumer outreach and education campaign regarding agricultural biotechnology to explain environmental, nutritional, food safety, economic, and humanitarian impacts of biotech crops; adds most consumers want GMO labeling

Commentary: USFRA Food Dialogues piece by Digital Voices Council member Amanda Zaluckyj gives reasons farmers are happy to use GMO crops including reduced use of herbicides, insecticides, ability to use conservation tillage, reduced carbon emissions; notes GMO crops safe for humans, beneficial insects

Commentary: Blogger for American Council on Science and Health criticizes Whole Foods' claims that its organic produce its grown without any toxic pesticides, lists several organic approved pesticides that are very toxic to humans

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project says over 1,000 studies, most by independent researchers, document GMO safety; adds experts say there's no scientific basis to believe foods grown with 1 or 2 precisely tweaked and mapped genes would pose more allergenic problems than conventional, organic foods

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports experts at biosafety workshop warn activists plot for Nigeria to miss out on biotechnology, which would be a disaster for country with one of world's largest populations

News: News Ghana reports Monsanto's response to Food Sovereignty Ghana, worldwide March Against Monsanto, spokesperson says company focuses "on need to feed people and protect the planet"

News: Xinhua reports biotech maize and cotton varieties produced by local scientists expected to be released for field trials in Kenya soon, GM drought- and pest-resistant cassava, sorghum and sweet potato due to be complete soon

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Parliament member Dharamvira Ghandhi requests Punjab Assembly special session to pass resolution against GM mustard, claims government out to destroy biodiversity to benefit Monsanto, Dow

Commentary: Smart Indian Agriculture editor Vivian Fernandes says in The Quint op-ed that activists should open their minds, let farmers decide if GM mustard works by allowing them to use the crop; says activists oppose the crop fiercely due to fear other GM crops will follow

News: Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) explains its ongoing biofortification research efforts through golden rice, which Golden Rice Project Leader Dr. Roel Suralta notes has potential to help address Vitamin A deficiency, Golden Rice Project is a collaborative effort between PhilRice and IRRI

News: India news outlet reports Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed resolution rejecting GM mustard seed due to health and environmental safety issues, claims health of farmers at risk

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Dutch science journalist Hidde Boersma, formerly affiliated with Greenpeace, explains her documentary project, "Well Fed," in which she examines culture war surrounding GMOs, she argues anti-GMO sentiment is a luxury of those who don't have to worry about food

Commentary: Pro-GMO group Europabio says almost all soy from South and North American countries is GM; in EU, soy mainly feeds livestock, helping livestock farms prosper, which drives EU exports, jobs and growth; adds GM foods as safe as conventional but are regularly voted down

Interview: Italian news site talks to New Centre-Right deputy and former Food Safety Commission chairman about protests related to EU decision to authorize GM maize and cotton imports, says "protests not based on scientific evidence", asserts GM imports "absolutely safe" to humans and animals

Campaign: Polish NGO announces start of public consultation for draft GMO-free labeling bill, encourages comments to be sent before June 4 closing date

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports maize association to ask government to legalize GM maize, says growing conventional maize not economically viable for farmers; biotech opponents do not want native corn seed to be lost

News: Telesur reports on new trade deal between Russia and Venezuela, Russia will ship 60,000 tons of

wheat to Venezuela, which will establish five new companies to manufacture Russian industrial vehicles, highlights Russian state bodies' reports that Venezuela currently relies on shipments of GM wheat from the US

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports former professor using CRISPR-Cas9 gene drive system to control pest problem by engineering male pests which only produce male offspring, claims "social risk" fears keeping advancements from occurring

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 monitoring highlights featured response to the unexpected death of India's environment minister with commentaries analyzing its impact on GM mustard commercialization. Canada's Parliament voted down a GMO labeling bill. A Chinese news outlet reported Kenyan farmers want to plant GM crops to deal with the nation's drought.

- India's environmental minister, Anil Madhav Dave, passed away Thursday. Media coverage noted Dave was to decide on the commercialization of GM mustard. An analysis by *Down to Earth* speculated the new minister may delay the decision until the Supreme Court hands down its decision on cases involving the crop's safety. **See more**.
- Canadian media reported Parliament rejected a GMO labeling bill with a 216-67 vote. A New Democratic Party of Canada news release complained about the result, claiming 80 percent of consumers want labeling. The bill's opponents argued that labels should warn only of dangers or potential allergens. MP Francis Drouin said, "Let's face it: this bill calls for mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods so that people will not buy them." **See more**.
- Chinese news agency *Xinhua* reported that Kenyan farmers are hoping the government approves GM crops to help address the country's ongoing drought. The drought has resulted in lower corn production, forcing shortages in the vital commodity. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Pro-science blogger "Skeptical Raptor" writes for Daily Kos, debunking claims that consuming GM foods results in gene transfer, points out several flaws in PLoS One paper in question, notes that even if gene transfer did occur, it would not pose a health risk

Commentary: Editorial in rural newspaper calls U.S. FDA spending millions to inform consumers about GMOs a "peck on the cheek" for Big Ag; claims 15 percent growth in organic ag is increasing negative publicity about glyphosate, atrazine in water supply, food

Commentary: Forbes contributor Kavin Senapathy argues anti-GMO movement should be considered as socially unacceptable as anti-vaccine push, arguing both challenge scientific consensus, scare populations, cause preventable suffering,

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know e-newsletter focuses primarily on Monsanto's connections to third-party groups such as Genetic Literacy Project without disclosing affiliation in Roundup cancer lawsuit, also claims Monsanto continues ties with professors to publish positive articles without disclosure

More North America items

Africa

New: Kenyan news site reports as fall armyworms continue to wreak havoc on farms across the country, experts say the damage could worsen the current food crisis; armyworms in at least 10 counties could cause 100 percent loss in maize, rice, pasture, sorghum, millet, cotton and some vegetable crops

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) Director General Olusegun Ojo's warning of potential shortfall in seed production, on sidelines of training program organized by Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), as seed companies are not producing because of debts owed to them

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow examines progress in India's development of GM mustard, following recent approval by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), highlights South Asia Biotechnology Centre president C.D. Mayee's concern that activists are keeping India from being competitive

Commentary: Southern India newspaper editorial urges government to allow genetically modified crops, including mustard; warns against process being "hijacked by alarmist ideologies" that raise irrational, unscientific fears

More Asia items

Europe

News release: U.K. Green Party MEP Keith Taylor applauds colleagues for voting decisively to oppose European Commission's proposal to authorize import of GM cotton and maize, claims the herbicides used on the crops pose "credible" human health risk

News: Agence France-Presse reports EU Parliament opposed herbicide-tolerant GM corn, cotton import, cites concerns regarding "independent research" highlighting herbicides hindering embryo develop, causing endocrine disruption

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist says if GM corn is allowed in Mexico, all corn varieties would soon be contaminated, harming biodiversity and forcing farmers to buy seed from Monsanto due to patent laws

News: Ecuadorian news site reports agro-ecological groups oppose country's new seed bill, saying it is against free exchange of seeds and limits healthy and safe food

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian ag-focused news outlet reports Australian grain industry needs to factor in attitudes on GM crops when exporting, highlights attitudes in China swung from favorable to negative on GM foods within 4 years with consumers willing to pay premiums for non-GMO; however low cost may make GM crops desirable in India

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 10:18:25 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 monitoring highlights included European Parliament members objecting to European Commission plans to approve GM corn and cotton for import. Activists promoted the upcoming March Against Monsanto event, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans for three public meetings in June to gather comments on revised biotechnology regulations. In India, activists met with a government official to discuss concerns regarding GM mustard.

- EU Parliament members took a nonbinding vote opposing the commission's approval of pesticide-resistant GM corn and cotton. Members said they want a drastic overhaul the approval process for imported GM products. **See more**.
- March Against Monsanto and other NGO sites publicized the upcoming protest march scheduled for Saturday. **See more**
- The USDA plans to host three meetings in June to receive comments on the Proposed Rule for Importation, Interstate Movement, and Environmental Release of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms. **See more**.
- Ongoing media coverage regarding GM mustard included activists, students and farmers meeting with India Environment Minister Anil Dave to discuss concerns regarding commercializing the crop. Dave said their concerns will be addressed. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Writing for Cornell Alliance for Science, Mark Lynas says China's much-needed biotech adoption is blocked by divided government, consumer GMO fears fanned by media anti-GMO exposes, shares plans to debate country's top GMO opponent

Announcement: Genetic Literacy Project infographic lists six "fear profiteers" who make most from creating consumer fears around biotechnology and the media empires they created

Commentary: Natural Health 365 staff writer presses readers to not be swayed by "propaganda" when the FDA launches education initiative on GM foods, claims increase in herbicide usage means greater likelihood of health issues for consumers

News: Quartz reports Florida-based Southern Garden Citrus seeking approval from U.S. FDA for commercial use of genetically engineered virus to combat citrus greening; company hopes to sidestep regulations attached to GM crops since virus doesn't affect the fruit, approval could take up to two years

News: Fox Business reports Monsanto investing heavily in gene editing technology, expects products to hit market within five years; opponents including V.A. Shiva Ayyadurai and Non-GMO Project claim "off-target" effects, lack of long-term studies concerning

Commentary: Geneticist Layla Katiraee examines Del Monte's new GM pink pineapple, summarizing the breeding process and use of RNAi, believes that the pink pineapple may not have any real health benefit, but notes its potential to reduce food waste and encourage people to eat more fruits and vegetables

More North America items

Africa

Study: Nigerian, Mexican researchers publish study in Frontiers in Plant Science highlighting effectiveness of Marker Assisted Recurrent Selection in improving genetic gains in yield under drought stress and favorable environments in maize; atrazine used on crops as pre-emergent

More Africa items

Asia

Interview: Indian business news outlet interviews GM mustard innovator Deepak Pental, he believes lies about GM technology are irrational and belong in a post-truth world, notes anti-GMO sentiment has put India 20 years behind in research on ag-biotech capabilities, emphasizes importance of technology for future ag solutions

Commentary: Financial Express op-ed says it makes sense to approve GM mustard because it's locally produced by a public entity, will make India self-sufficient in edible oil, will increase farmer incomes

News: The Korea Herald reports officials cancel local annual flower festival after unauthorized strains of GMOs found in flower specimen; notes South Korea bans living modified organisms due to potential impact on ecosystems

Commentary: Ex-United Nations official and University of Oxford-educated researcher co-author Inter Press Service column arguing GM crops have not lived up to promises of increased yields and reduced herbicide usage; claims glyphosate usage has greatly increased, only beneficiaries are large ag companies who profit

Commentary: Vietnamese news site reports GMOs do not cause cancer, GM crop benefits include better farmer income, higher yields, pest and drought resistance, pesticide use reduction

Commentary: Indian news outlet editorial voices opposition to government approval of GM mustard, noting it ignores widespread opinion against its introduction, including by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, claims it will destroy native mustard varieties and force farmers into dependence on foreign multinational corporations

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: ISAAA reported UK's DEFRA approves GM potato field trial to test blight- and nematode-resistant traits that resists bruising, produces less acrylamide

Announcement: EFSA will discuss authorizations for several GM corn varieties, develop supplementary guidelines for allergenicity assessment of GM plants, based on draft agenda for Scientific Panel on GMOs plenary meeting (May 17-18)

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news site columnist criticizes NGOs lobbying to ban GM crops while farmers suffer through pest attacks, Bolivia imports corn; notes they claim glyphosate causes cancer while neglecting to mention red meat, barbecue, coffee, potato chips carry same risk and aflatoxin from organic crops kill people

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Bloomberg reports hybrid black rice being grown in China has potential to help fight growing diabetes problem, highlights Australia's CSIRO developing rice with more fiber and Philippines rice researchers creating rice with more Vitamin A as ways to help consumers

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:04:36 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 monitoring highlights included ongoing debate over the potential commercialization of GM mustard in India, North American discussion of GMO labeling and the discovery of GM rapeseed in South Korea.

- Opponents of GM mustard commercialization in India, including the Coalition for a GM-Free India and a group of farmers unions, continued to issue demands for Environment Minister Anil Dave to reject the crop. Business Standard published a piece from a food and trade policy analyst who criticized the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's approval of the crop, expressing concern that India will become the "world's biggest dustbin for a risky, unwanted and harmful technology." However, a *Financial Express* columnist analyzed Dave's past statements and suggested he may have already made up his mind to support GM mustard. **See more**

- Canadian activist groups including the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and Vigilance OGM called on members of Parliament to approve a bill under consideration that would create mandatory GMO labeling in the country. **See more**. In the United States, Just Label It and Environmental Working Group campaigning against the Regulatory Accountability Act, claiming it would create additional hurdles for the USDA to adopt new rules and suggesting industry is financially backing it as a last-ditch effort to block GM labeling. The bill is up for a Senate vote this week. **See more**

- A South Korean news outlet reporting that Monsanto's herbicide-tolerant rapeseed was found in 19 retail outlets nationwide although rapeseed is approved for feed but seed imports are prohibited. Environmental groups are voicing concerns the rapeseed might spread. **See more**

- Agriculture and environment ministers from 10 central European and western Balkan countries reportedly accepted a joint memorandum in which they declared that they will be harmonizing their GMO policies, expressing a preference for GMO-free agriculture. **See more**

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North America

Campaign: Alliance for Natural Health urges supporters to sign petition to stop USDA from using tax money to support global corporations like Monsanto; claims hundreds of millions of dollars are spent every year by the USDA to develop new GMO and crop protection patents that are given to private businesses

Commentary: True Activist columnist questions long-term health benefits of GM crops and whether U.S. FDA should lead campaign for consumer outreach; activist groups claim "Big Ag influence"

Commentary: Green Jihad blog questions motives of "Island Earth" documentary to push Slow Food movement, disparage attempts at enhanced food production such as biotechnology

Commentary: Ag policy director for Environmental Working Group speaks out against Regulatory Accountability Act, arguing it would keep GM labeling laws from taking effect through further approvals and "put industry costs above consumer rights"

Commentary: Center for Science in the Public Interest Biotechnology Director Greg Jaffe calls on USDA to establish a science-based regulatory system to address GE and gene-edited crops, pointing out flaws in current regulations that can lead to over or under-regulation, believes such crops should be regulated proportionally based on potential risks

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides voices opposition to recently passed spending bill's inclusion of $3 million in funding for a federal GMO outreach campaign, claims GMOs and associated herbicide use are responsible for monarch butterfly decline, poor soil health, and water contamination

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports environmental rights group HOMEF asking for revocation of Monsanto's permit for Bt cotton due to health and environmental concerns, also called for repeal of National Biosafety Management Agency Act

Announcement: Burkina Faso government updates biotech safety regime by establishing risk levels, conditions for destruction of GMOs presenting human, environmental health risks

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune contributor notes Open Forum of Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) recently convened professionals to brainstorm on how to convey "message of science to Nigerians"; emphasizes GMO technology offers scientific way to improve food production and "put money in the bags of farmers and contribute the nation's GDP"

More Africa items

Asia

Interview: Firstpost writer talks with Aruna Rodrigues, lead petitioner in India's Supreme Court GM mustard case, she claims "agronomical fraud" and says GM mustard will not meet promises of higher yields and decreased reliance on imports; also says Bt cotton has failed in India

Commentary: Research fellow at IFPRI writes op-ed in Business Standard refuting major arguments from anti-GMO activists surrounding GM mustard, cites scientific evidence for net benefits and minimal risks

Commentary: Hans India editor claims better farming practices should have been applied before permitting GM varieties such as mustard; suggests need for "long-term studies to evaluate their safety and ecological impact," advocates organic and agroecology practices

Commentary: Financial Express columnist claims environment minister may have already made up his mind on GM mustard approval despite activist groups' complaints, minister said all health issues have already been addressed and asked courts to dismiss activists' petition

Commentary: India's largest farmers unions ask country's environment minister to reject GM mustard commercialization; letter claims it would only benefit large ag companies and "testing has been rigged to have favourable results for this unsafe GMO"

Commentary: Agribusiness markets specialist writes in The Hindu, arguing GM mustard's higher yields could be a "game changer," crop deserves approval in India; notes one way to address safety and environmental concerns is to permit commercial cultivation in specific locations

News: Vietnamese news site reports Okanagan planting 85,000 non-browning GM Arctic apple trees in Washington state, with plans to increase to 300,000 trees; adds ISAAA report shows benefits of GE crops to farmers and consumers

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Biologist Roberto Defez writes blog post for Italy's Fondazione Umberto Veronesi, advocating use of genome editing techniques, highlighting many potential benefits, including in medicine, laments that widespread fear of GMOs has "paralyzed the entire industry and cast mistrust on scientific research"

Commentary: Inf'OGM reacts to French Senate bill that would amend intellectual property code and limit patent protection to a product containing genetic information, claims new bill reveals a "political will to further regulate the patent in the field of biotechnology;" bill sent to economic affairs committee with no hearing scheduled yet

News release: EFSA collecting applications for science experts to serve on Scientific Panel on GMOs; submissions accepted June 1 to Sept. 8

Commentary: EuropaBio newsletter features guest opinion by Spanish farmer Pedro Gallardo, who emphasizes importance of a well-functioning Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), he promotes many benefits of GM crops, and criticizes member states voting against GM crop approvals, believes proposed comitology reforms risk further politicization

News release: Central EU and Western Balkan ag and environmental ministers accept joint memorandum declaring plans to harmonize GMO policies to support traditional, GMO-free agriculture, citing market opportunities; Hungary, Austria, Germany to submit EU soy declaration in July

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming European Union Court of Justice decision regarding regulating products of mutagenesis and new breeding techniques, highlights activism against "hidden GMOs" produced via mutagenesis in France, as well as calls for products of gene editing to be regulated as GMOs

Report: USDA GAIN Report notes EFSA launches public consultation on a draft guidance document on the risk assessment of GE plant material at low levels in food and feed material not intended for import into the EU; interested parties asked to submit comments by June 30

News: Croatian news site reports area under GM crops increased by 3 percent in 2016 to 185.1 million hectares in 26 countries, according to ISAAA's annual biotech report; adds GM crops increased by 17 percent in Europe to over 130,000 hectares, with 95 percent of this area in Spain

News: French business magazine amplifies ISAAA report announcing cultivation of GM plants rose by 3 percent in 2016, reference cyclical decline in 2015

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentine environmental group Fundavida worries ag companies are taking control of National Institute of Agricultural Technologyby prohibiting use of the term pesticides, claims Monsanto is controlling food supply with genetic engineering and damaging the land with chemicals

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand Soil and Health Association welcomes Consumers' Right to Know Bill, which would require all single component foods to display country of origin, arguing that lack of country of origin labeling makes it harder for New Zealanders to avoid foods containing GMOs and pesticide residues

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 previews of a European Commission committee meeting on the import of GM cotton and maize varieties, the CEO of Bayer responding to European lawmakers' concerns about a proposed merger with Monsanto and ongoing reaction to India's move toward commercializing indigenous varieties of GM mustard.

- The European Commission's Health and Food Safety Directorate General Appeal Committee will meet Tuesday (May 16) to discuss approving the commercialization and import of GM cotton and maize varieties. This meeting follows a the approval by a European Parliament committee last week of two non-binding resolutions calling on the commission to drop attempts to allow the products. Those resolutions will face a vote by MEPs on Wednesday. **See more**
- Bayer CEO Werner Baumann sent a letter to EU lawmakers who had called for the cancellation of the company's purchase of Monsanto. Baumann's response argued the takeover of Monsanto would not result in any degradation in environmental and health standards or consolidation in the market for products such as seeds. A Dutch news outlet interviewed Bayer board member Liam Condon, who indicated Bayer failed to acknowledge consumers' concerns about Monsanto's technologies before moving forward with the merger. **See more**
- Several farmer groups joined environmentalists in opposing the commercialization of GM mustard in India while the head of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests is lobbying the environment minister to postpone the vote on GM mustard until he can further investigate the impacts of the crop. *The Hindu* published an editorial calling for the decision to be based on science rather than emotion or politics. **See more**.

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North America

News: Food Navigator reports Canadian Parliament will vote May 17 on mandatory labeling of GM foods, opponents say wording is too vague, would perpetuate myth that GM foods are unhealthy; notes US labeling law will go into effect in 2019

News: Politico Pro reports on complications of traceability in getting US beef to China market, including Mad Cow, ractopamine concerns while US poultry industry tries to overcome avian flu barriers with the country, and biotech approval delays could soon come to end; USDA says traceability hearings not attempt to replace ADT

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project writer shares how RNAi reduces crop spoilage, increases nutrients in food, can be used for crop protection; says full potential of RNAi for crop improvement remains to be realized

News: Food Ingredients First reports Milk Specialties Global adds NonGMO Project Verified Organic NonFat Dried Milk "clean label" product to its protein portfolio; says addition shows company's commitment to "supporting the increasing demand for cleaner label products"

Commentary: Dietitian on USFRA Digital Voices council says she doesn't eat "clean," asserts many food trends driven by food companies aren't fact-based, criticizes Chipotle for marketing that implies GMO are bad

Commentary: "Farmer's Daughter USA" Amanda Zaluckyj praises former President Obama's recent comments during interview at Seeds&Chips Global Food Innovation Summit in Italy, in which he encouraged Europeans to "follow the science" on GMOs, noting his encouragement is for a balanced approach

More North America items

Africa

News: Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) reports on visit by Ugandan delegation to learn about GMOs and biosafety, and to assess possibility of future collaboration

News: The Nation reports Kenyan delegation of farmers, government officials and private sector representatives were impressed with visit to Malawi's GM cotton trials, express interest in bringing technology back to Kenya

News: Uganda newspaper reports on Uganda delegation visit to remote Zombo district bordering Democratic Republic of Congo; highlights local drought conditions, quotes area tribal leader who calls on parliament to handle GMO seed issue with care "to avoid negative effects to those who plant them"

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: In Forbes, National University of Singapore professor examines U.S.-China trade deal; notes U.S. can request Chinese bureaucrats make a decision on outstanding Food Safety Certificate biotech applications, but no guarantee of approval

News: Vietnam Biz reports U.S.-China economic plan includes potential for approval of eight pending U.S. biotech applications following safety evaluations this month by China's National Commission on Biosafety

Commentary: Philippines NGO shares news that organization of small-scale organic farmers was recognized by federal, local government for climate-resilient farming practices and awarded funding; group promotes organic agriculture and opposes GMOs, aerial spraying

Commentary: India newspaper editorial encourages adoption of GM mustard following recommendation by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee; says India needs to increase its agricultural production, GM crops are a path do so

News: New Indian Express reports India's head of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests calls on environment minister to delay decision on GM mustard until his committee concludes evaluation of GM crops

Commentary: The Tribune editorial board writes on potential for GM mustard to be "watershed moment" clearing way for other GM crops in India, says outcome from Bt cotton not "as disastrous as critics had warned"; Environment Ministry trying to "clear doubts" about consumption and cultivation of GM mustard by terming opposition "unscientific"

Commentary: Manila Bulletin piece by Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines chair Emil Javier shares ISAAA report, notes biotech crop adoption rate is fastest among agricultural technologies in modern times; benefits of GM crops include increase in farm productivity that benefits farmers, saves forests, reduces pesticide use

More Asia items

Europe

News: Swiss news site reports Parliament's summer session will include discussion of release of GMOs with markers resistant to antibiotics; two chambers already agree not to authorize cultivation of "zones with GMO," four-year extension of moratorium on GMOs in agriculture to 2021

Event: European Commission Health and Food Safety Directorate General Appeal Committee meeting (May 16) will focus on discussion of draft authorizations for sales of GM cotton, GM maize

News: Politico Pro Morning Ag report notes Bayer CEO responds to European Parliament, states Monsanto takeover would not result in degradation of environmental, health standards or consolidation of seed market; mentions Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to discuss GMO licenses for two cotton, maize strains on May 16

Interview: Dutch news outlet interviews Bayer's Liam Condon on challenges facing the merger with Monsanto, Condon believes Monsanto's reputation is what it is because the company failed to acknowledge consumers' concerns about its technologies, highlights Bayer's efforts to increase public engagement

Commentary: French activist group Inf'OGM blasts moves to classify gene editing products as conventional, promote deregulation of these new GMOs; cites study finding GM soy diet's negative effect on rats

News: Food Ingredients First reports Milk Specialties Global adds NonGMO Project Verified Organic NonFat Dried Milk "clean label" product to its protein portfolio; says addition shows company's commitment to "supporting the increasing demand for cleaner label products"

Commentary: Greenpeace, with organic, food safety NGOs sends open letter to European Commission President Juncker calling for decision against authorization of GM maize from DuPont, Monsanto, Syngenta, cites majority of EU countries with GMO bans

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's AS-PTA recaps Seminar on Agroecology featuring case study presentations by seven Latin American countries; discussion highlighted maintenance of ecological practices by peasants, decontamination of water, soil; group expects to meet again in September at Latin American Congress of Agroecology

News: Natural Blaze reports on discovery of illegal GM corn cultivation in Bolivian village of Charagua, local NGO SOS MAIZ BOLIVIA warned about negative impacts on native maize varieties and human health

Video: Global Justice Ecology Project interviews Eliane Oliveira of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) on their fight against tree plantations, especially GE trees, she highlights negative environmental impacts of industrial tree plantations, including water scarcity, MST wants to increase government and public awareness

News: Director of Brazilian magazine Oasis reports on University of California's development of GM algae, highlighting many potential immediate uses, such as human food, animal feed and biofuels, as well as other potential applications, researcher Jonathan Shurin emphasizes growing need for sustainable food and energy

Commentary: Puerto Rican news outlet warns readers about dangers of GMOs, noting they are found in many food items, and claiming they have not undergone sufficient health and environmental safety testing, points to IARC's review of glyphosate, promotes upcoming lecture by Nutritionist Vilma Calderón on risks of GM foods

News: Cuba's state news agency highlights art exhibit, "Cartels for food sovereignty," focused on opposition to transgenic maize; anti-GM group claims GMOs scientifically proven to be dangerous to

environment and health

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Please click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 4:05:03 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As the European Commission's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed plans to meet this week to discuss neonicotinoids, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and glyphosate, a new wave of commentary criticizing EU regulations has emerged.

In a piece on his "The Risk-Monger" blog, Belgium's David Zaruk argues that "only misguided fools, ideological zealots or morally compromised individuals would support regulatory actions against either glyphosate or neonicotinoids." He lays blame for questionable decisions at the feet of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Zaruk also wrote a separate piece highlighting a German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment official's defense of its assessment finding glyphosate does not cause cancer.

Former MEP George Lyon also weighed in on the EU's pesticide regulations, asserting that the commission seems "hell bent on ignoring the evidence and imposing a further blanket ban on the use of neonicotinoids" while the reauthorization of glyphosate was "hijacked" by a populist political campaign despite scientific findings that the herbicide is safe. He further argues that "it has been the same story" with GMOs.

Similar arguments can be found in British MP Matt Ridley's column for *The Times*, which suggests Britain should create an "innovation principle" as it frees itself from the EU's stifling regulations on pesticides and GM crops.

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In This Issue

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Matthew Schnurr

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: Regulatory action against glyphosate, neonics would be product of "Junck Science" from European Commission president

Ex-MEP George Lyon: EU regulatory system a "disaster for farmers," with neonic restrictions a "classic example"

British MP Matt Ridley: With chance to free itself from EU regulation of herbicides and GM crops, Britain should adopt "innovation principle"

Henry Miller: European Commission ignoring "inconvenient truth" that its own Joint Research Centre opposes neonic ban

Science 2.0: USDA study shows how modern beekeeping allows Varroa mites to spread, becoming "biggest culprit" in colony failures

Canadian environmental geographer and political ecologist Matthew Schnurr is appearing in news reports, aligning his views with those of groups such as Food Sovereignty Ghana by claiming GMO crops will not be successful in Africa.

Affiliated with Dalhousie University, Schnurr's work and writings have been used and cited by anti-biotech, eco-feminist activists and agroecology advocates as supporting their claims that GMOs exploit the poor.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Schnurr.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Genetic Literacy Project: Bangladesh's success with GM crops could spur innovation in other developing countries

CATO Institute: Why should U.S. tax money support organic marketing when there are no nutritional or environmental benefits?

"Food Evolution" documentary's North American rights acquired, New York City premiere set for June 23

Navneet Anand: India's Senior Congress leader should stop impeding growth of GMO technology as Bangladesh farmers benefit from it

Greg Jaffe: GMO labeling often dishonest, "nothing unsafe about foods made from GMOs"

The American Interest: Gene editing could allow farmers to boost yields while using less pesticides

Iowa Farm Bureau: "No GMOs" labels becoming marketing ploy for companies with flagging sales

Rothamsted Research: EU ban of neonics would be bad for farmers, increase pest resistance to chemicals

Phibro director of food integrity: March for Science overlooked fact that responsible ag antibiotic use does not cause resistance in humans

Stephan Neidenbach: 10 memes showing why to support biotechnology

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What's Trending?

Obama: Don't cut off conversation on GMOs - "Let's see what the facts are"

U.S. federal agencies seek input from governors as part of WOTUS rewrite

U.S. Food and Drug Administration to launch $3 million campaign to educate consumers about genetically modified foods

Colorado columnist's five-part series explores consequences of Boulder County's GMO ban

U.K. NGOs urge retailers to adopt B&Q policy to stop selling neonic-treated plants as scientist plans to release study on the topic

Calendar highlights

May 15-17	May 16	May 17-18

EDC-MixRisk Consortium meeting in Stockholm	Pennsylvania State University pollinator research symposium	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting on EDCs, glyphosate, neonics
May 17	May 18-19	May 18
Agricultural and Food Law Consortium webinar on genetically engineered salmon	Cornell University BEST Biotechnology Symposium	American Feed Industry Association webinar "What Consumers Want"

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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 commentary on GM mustard, which is one step away from commercialization in India. A new U.S.-China trade deal includes a Chinese agreement to evaluate eight varieties of GM crops by the end of May. Mexico's Supreme Court opted not to review a Monsanto appeal that requested GM maize permits be issued during an ongoing trial.

- Following the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee's favorable recommendation of GM mustard, media, anti-biotech groups and biotech advocates commented on the potential for India's first GM food crop. *The Indian Express* and *The Times of India* op-eds supported approving the GM crop, while Vandana Shiva and several NGOs opposed the decision. Farmers unions, NGOs and the Swadeshi Jangran Manch wrote letters to Environment Minister Madhav Dave and Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging them to reject GM mustard. **See more**.
- As part of a recent U.S-China trade agreement, the Chinese agreed to review eight pending applications for GM crops from Monsanto, DuPont Pioneer and Syngenta. China's National Biosafety Committee's evaluation is due by the end of May, and some have been stuck in the Chinese review process for up to six years. The protocol requires that for any variety failing the review process, the committee must identify a reason for the failure. **See more**.
- Mexico's Supreme Court declined to review an appeals court decision from 2013 that suspended GM maize cultivation permits, so GM corn will continue to be suspended in the country. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: In last of 5-part series, Boulder Daily Camera's Mara Abbott asks farmers for policy suggestions, says disconnect between farmers and consumers adds to problem as decisions made without knowledge of farming systems based on activists' narrowly focused solutions, notes CU researchers agree GMOs advance sustainability

Commentary: Henry Miller writes for Project Syndicate, criticizing environmentalists for shunning GE crops and pesticides and promoting low-yielding, labor intensive agroecological methods, believes denying developing nations access to agricultural technology is the real human rights violation

Commentary: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network e-newsletter reports on local groups' request for Prince Edward Island Premier to hold public hearings before approving GE fish production facility, highlighting risks to wild salmon, encourages supporters to email the Premier

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, calling for America to "break up" with Dr. Oz, highlighting his spread of misleading and potentially dangerous information to millions of Americans, notes she has previously covered Oz's misleading statements about GMOs

Commentary: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network e-newsletter reports upcoming vote on GMO labeling has been moved to May 17, urges supporters to contact their MPs in support of mandatory labeling, highlights recent meetings with 19 MPs, in collaboration with Kids Right to Know

Commentary: Author/activist David Bollier promotes OpenSourceSeed license initiative, warning that corporate control of seeds has led to loss of biodiversity, highlights OpenSourceSeeds' agenda of promoting food security through seed diversity, as well as ecological farming practices

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Environment Minister Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng's call on members of National Biosafety Authority's (NBA) Appeals Tribunal Committee to operate with fairness and due diligence, NBA's Eric Okore urged those with concerns about GMOs to provide scientific evidence rather than spreading propaganda

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent workshop organized by National Biotechnology Agency in collaboration with Open Forum on Agriculture Biotechnology (OFAB), with goal of increasing public understanding of biotech and its benefits, Agency Director General Lucy Ogbadu hopes gene editing will make the public more accepting

News: Malawi news outlet reports on Ministry of Foreign Affairs' plans to send agricultural experts to Brazil to learn how to effectively combat fall armyworms, as they are resistant to commonly used pesticides

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India editorial calls on government to grant final approval of GM mustard, noting it has undergone extensive safety tests and pointing to India's urgent need to boost yields, urges government not to bow to pressure of anti-GMO lobby groups

News: Reuters reports on China's recent promise to evaluate eight US GM crop varieties by the end of this month as part of trade deal, highlights products from Monsanto, Dow and DuPont that have been stuck in the Chinese approval process for years, as well as class action lawsuit over Syngenta's release of GM corn without Chinese approval

News: NDTV reports GEAC approves GM mustard for commercial release in India, with anti-GMO activists and farmers remaining opposed; notes the crop awaits final approval from Prime Minister Modi who will consult with the Environment Minister before making a decision

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch criticizes University of Arizona research into GM corn that controls aflatoxin, says non-GMO corn already controls aflatoxin while RNAi technology in GM corn poses "considerable risks"

News: Danish news outlet reports on debate surrounding whether or not products of gene editing should be regulated as GMOs, highlighting ongoing lawsuit in France, Kim Holm Boesen of Agricultural and Fisheries Agency emphasized importance of establishing a clear stance in Denmark

Interview: Gilles-Eric Seralini tells Greek news site Monsanto polluting planet with "pesticide plants", claims EFSA and FDA grant approvals based on "what companies say"

News: French environmental news site reports GM crops on rise in 2016 according to ISAAA's annual biotech report, but number of cultivating countries is down from 28 to 26

Commentary: Green European Journal contributors claim industrial ag practices are not necessary to feed the world, arguing that poverty is the real cause of hunger, they claim industrial ag practices harm the environment with monocultures and pesticides, and point to IARC's conclusion about glyphosate

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Talking Biotech's Paul Vincelli questions Uruguayan Ministry of Agriculture's biosecurity director on how GMOs are regulated in the country

Commentary: GMWatch notes Bolivian NGO reports discovery that farmers plant illegal GM corn in the country; NGO worries about cross-pollination, pesticide use

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies La Jornada article, reports Mexican Supreme Court denies Monsanto appeal to reinstate GM maize permits during trial

News: Mexican economy news outlet reports on ISAAA's 2017 global biotech adoption report, highlighting 110 fold increase in adoption rates over 21 years, 10 Latin American countries reached a total of 80 million hectares of biotech crops, even as Mexico still prohibits GM maize cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site amplifies ISAAA report that biotech cultivation increased in 2016 by 5 million hectares worldwide

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:03:18 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 India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee giving a favorable recommendation for indigenous GM mustard. GM cotton trials were suspended in Ghana. Three trading firms are backing a movement towards planting non-GMO soy in Brazil's largest soy-producing state.

- Indian news sites reported GEAC gave a positive recommendation for the commercialization of indigenously developed GM mustard. The final decision now is up to India's environmental ministry. However, *Mint* reported there is a Supreme Court case pending on the variety and the RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch, ideological parent of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, strongly opposes GM crops. A court hearing could be scheduled in July. **See more**.
- In Ghana, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research suspended GM cotton trials in the country after Monsanto withdrew funding for the project. A CSIR investigator said the company pulled out due to Burkina Faso's staged withdrawal of Bt cotton. Nigerian news site *Joy* reported Ghana's initial Bt cotton trials were going well as the GM cotton fields required substantially fewer pesticide applications than conventional cotton fields. **See more**.
- *Reuters* reported Brazil's largest soy-producing state, Mato Grasso, is beginning to move towards producing non-GMO soy as farmers anticipate growing demand for non-GM soy in the Asian and European markets. The article noted three trading firms -- Amaggi SA, Imcopa International SA and Caramuru Alimentos SA -- are backing the effort. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Audio: AgDaily podcast interviews scientist Kevin Folta, who describes how groups like U.S. Right To Know use FOIA requests to intentionally disparage scientists' reputation and work on GMOs

Commentary: Scientist Mary Mangan and pro-GMO teacher Stephan Neidenbach write for Genetic Literacy Project, examining ties between Organic Consumers Association's anti-vaccine agenda and US Right to Know's FOIA requests targeting pro-biotech academics, noting OCA's anti-vaccine campaigns are funded by spreading fear of GMOs and pesticides

News: Canadian Press reports on environmental groups Earth Action and the Council of Canadians' call for public hearings on proposed GE salmon production facility in Prince Edward Island, arguing that AquaBounty's plan to produce eggs and fish on the Island is different from the proposal approved last year

Video: Trailer for "Secret Ingredients" documentary by Jeffrey Smith and Amy Hart features doctors and scientific experts including Steven Druker and David Perlmutter who warn viewers about risks of GMOs and pesticides, as well as families describing how organic diets improved their kids' health, solicits donations for production

News: New Hope Network reports the company Our Little Rebellion created a supply chain with Nebraska

family farmers to offer non-GM corn products, calls its story the "Corn Revolution"

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya hosts forum to discuss comprehensive pest management systems to fight fall armyworm, a pest that could cost African nations up to $3 billion this year

News: Zambian news source reports Seed Control and Certification Institute working on "standard threshold" for drought-tolerant seed varieties across the COMESA region of Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports India's Supreme Court likely to hear case in July on whether GM mustard will be commercially released, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee recommended crop for approval

News: Press Trust of India reports on Environment Ministry's approval of GM mustard following Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's positive recommendation for its commercial use, final approval must come from Union Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave, highlights continued opposition from Swadeshi Jagran Manch

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor examines Monsanto's decision to withdraw application of Bollgard-3 Bt cotton technology due to regulatory uncertainty, highlighting trait fee dispute, notes farmers need an alternative solution as pests are developing resistance to current Bt cotton technology

More Asia items

Europe

News: French agricultural site reports EFSA finds MON 810 does not pose risk in Spain or Portugal

News: Bulgarian news site reports Austria is "preparing European alliance against" GMOs, says non-GM agriculture opens opportunities in Central, Southeastern Europe; Austian ag minister says family farms can't compete against corporations, but "production is highest quality"

News: EU food policy news outlet reports Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is drafting a bill to introduce a label for GMO-free foods

News: European news sites report groups planning March Against Monsanto event May 20; group wants to "educate the public" and encourage politicians to move against GMOs, pesticides, patents for LMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Ecuadoran news site reports indigenous groups plan to file lawsuit as soon as Parliament passes new seed law; claim law seeks to control community seed ownership

News: Brazilian news site reports prosecutor's office reinstates fine against Monsanto in lawsuit dating to 2005 for carrying out research without proper license

News: Brazilian environmental news site Monsanto-funded ISAAA's biotech update shows GM crop cultivation increased in 2016

Commentary: Bolivian anti-GM NGO reports Roundup Ready corn discovered in country, warns government not fulfilling legal obligations to protect against serious risks to "country's plant genetic patrimony and the health of the population"

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 University of Saskatchewan's reply to the *Canadian Broadcasting Corp.*'s story on a professor's work with Monsanto based on a U.S. Right to Know report. Nigeria's government instructed federal agencies to cooperate on detecting GMOs to improve biosafety in the country. Former U.S. President Barack Obama told a crowd in Italy that it's OK to be cautious, but we should continue exploring biotechnology.

- *CBC* ran the University of Saskatchewan's reply to a report in which USRTK's Gary Ruskin claimed professor Peter Phillips has conflicts of interest due to collaboration with Monsanto. Biotech advocate Kevin Folta and fellow University of Saskatchewan professor Stuart Smyth also replied to the negative report. **See more**.
- Nigerian news sites reported the federal government instructed the Nigerian Customs Service and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control to partner with the Nigeria Biosafety Management Agency to detect illegal GMOs in the country. Environment Minister Ibrahim Jubril said it is necessary to ensure Nigeria does not become "a dumping ground for poisonous and genetically modified foods." **See more on Nigeria biosafety**. Meanwhile, Cornell Alliance for Science fellow Modesta Nnedinso Abugu wrote that biotechnology has the potential to improve Nigeria's food security. **See more on Nigerian food security**.
- *Politico* and other media reported Obama spoke at a conference in Italy and told the crowd, "The truth is that humanity has always engaged in genetic modifications," and added we cannot stop discovering new things. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Nature editorial warns about overuse of anti-science label following recent science march, noting many "anti-science" political measures don't have anything to do with science itself, believes debate surrounding GMO labeling has more to do with concerns about big agribusiness than health,

Commentary: March Against Monsanto blogger amplifies RT's coverage of released court documents on Monsanto's "Let Nothing Go" campaign to defend its image online, highlights allegations that Monsanto "ghostwrote" studies on glyphosate's safety

Commentary: American Veterinary Medical Association policy committee says mandatory labeling of GMO food products is 'unnecessary,' given the safety of the technology and the fact that labeling can send the wrong message

Campaign: 137 farmer, consumer, and environmental groups write letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, Senator Lee and Senator Klobuchar, urging them to ensure that Makan Delrahim will closley examine potential impact of Bayer-Monsanto deal as head of Antitrust Division at DOJ

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins lists five "rules for revolutionaries" in

promotion of Resistance and Regeneration movement, claims industrial ag practices are extremely damaging to the environment, calls for collaboration between anti-GMO/pro-organic movement and other political issue movements

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports federal government tasks customs, food and drugs agency to partner with Biosafety Management Agency to detect illegal GMOs; environment minister says country must become "dumping ground for GM foods"

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow Modesta Nnedinso Abugu of Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology-Nigeria Chapter writes blog post for CropLife, examining potential for biotech to improve Nigeria's food security, as discussed at recent event organized by Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Announcement: ISAAA reports Kenyan farmers ask government to approve Bt maize, Bt cotton to aid with crop yields during drought, armyworm attacks

More Africa items

Asia

News: Bangladeshi news site reports Bangladesh may commercialize Golden Rice in 2018; says action could help dispel rumors and myths surrounding GMO safety

Study: Chinese researchers develop canker-resistant citrus plants using CRISPR/Cas9 editing

News: Vietnamese news site chronicles Monsanto's history in Vietnam, from Agent Orange to GMOs; notes former ag minister called GMOs a "scientific marvel" Vietnam needs to embrace, but activists say they are handing country's food sovereignty over to the agribusiness

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch promotes annual March Against Monsanto in London on May 20; notes hosts include Beyond GM, GM Freeze

News release: Czech Academy of Science announces seminar will focus on GM crop, biomedicine use; notes despite GMO safety, conservative laws prevent Czech Republic from realizing full benefits from biotech

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Puerto Rico newspaper highlights first ever Agricultural Biotechnology Season's End Festival represented by the Puerto Rico Agricultural Biotechnology Industry Association; notes ITIF's Val Giddings gave presentation on contributions being made by ag biotech to improve quality of life around the world

News: Bolivian news site reports NGO tested samples and found 30,000 hectares cultivated with glyphosate-resistant GM maize, says it violates Bolivian GMO ban, threatens health and food sovereignty

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 movement toward South African regulators approving Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, plans for Malaysian oversight of living modified organisms and an investigation into genetically modified flowers found for sale in Europe.

- Multiple news outlets, including *Reuters*, reported that Bayer agreed to divest its LibertyLink properties to win South African approval of its acquisition of Monsanto. The African Center for Biodiversity issued a release criticizing the South Africa Competition Commission's approval of the deal, claiming its divestment demands do not go far enough to protect consumers and small farmers from the long-term damage expected from the merger. **See more** Among other African NGO activity, Food Sovereignty Ghana published the final declaration from the International Meetings of the Resistance to GMOs recently held in Lorient, France. The group also promoted the upcoming March against Monsanto protest, sharing the meeting location with local supporters on its Facebook page. **See more**

- Malaysian media outlets reported the country's natural resources and environment minister announced plans for the biosafety to introduce 10 standard operating procedures for its enforcement activities to detect living modified organisms. The minister would not disclose the proposals, which are to be completed in four months. **See more**

- The U.K. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is investigating the sales of genetically modified petunias amid complaints from the NGO GM Freeze that the illegal flowers could pose environmental risks. Concerns have also been raised in Finland and Italy, where the sale of GM carnations and petunias prompted the government to issue an alert to the horticulture industry to properly label the flowers. *The Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail* provided coverage of the Defra investigation. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: CBI director of external engagement Michael Stebbins links to GMO Answers post recapping sixth-generation Florida farmer Lawson Mozley's Facebook Live chat focused on GMO plant science and food production during Earth Day; notes Lawson explains GE is "one of the greatest tools farmers have at their disposal"

Commentary: Farm Babe counters claims that Monsanto is evil, says many other companies sell glyphosate-based products as well and she's never met a commercial farmer who doesn't like Monsanto

Campaign: Pesticide Action Network calls on supporters to contact Department of Justice in opposition to planned mergers between Bayer-Monsanto and Dow-DuPont, claiming they will lead to increased use of chemical cocktails and ag practices responsible for increase in superweeds

News release: Friends of the Earth wants U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to carefully consider assistant attorney general's nomination to ensure proposed merger of Monsanto and Bayer is free of political interference, claims merger would be negative for American farmers and food safety

Commentary: Texas Farm Bureau reports federal budget allocates $3 million for public outreach on

GMOs, cites Pew study finding only 39 percent of adults believe GMOs are safe despite affirmations from scientific consensus

More North America items

Africa

News: Rwandan news source reports experts call for quick, multipronged effort to fight fall armyworm in Africa, including biopesticides and transgenic pest resistant crops, among other methods

News: South Africa business news site reports crop insurer urges South Africa to assist in promoting food security by increased public-private partnerships such as Water Efficient Maize for Africa

News: Deutsche Welle reports environmentalists in São Tomé and Príncipe reject transgenic corn, under cooperation with China; claim the agrochemicals used on the corn are unknown and that it is unclear if they contaminate water, kill animals or cause other issues; Greenpeace activist on hunger strike at embassy in Lisbon

Commentary: Nutritionist Mercy Lung'aho writes for International Center for Tropical Agriculture's (CIAT) blog, emphasizes importance of biofortification for tackling malnutrition in Africa, praises work by HarvestPlus and International Potato Center (CIP), calls for better understanding of what vulnerable populations eat and how

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Strategic communications professional Navneet Anand calls out India Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh for impeding the growth of GMO technology in India; notes Indian farmers highly favor Bt cotton, numerous field trials of other GMO crops have proven successful

News: India business news outlet reports Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee to convene meeting with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to resolve issue of importing GM processed foods

News: China news source examines ChemChina's national strategy to strengthen domestic agriculture industry via new acquisitions, including Syngenta purchase

News: The Hindu - India's Karnataka state government grants funds to 26 biotech start-ups as part of government initiative to nurture innovation in the country

News: Xinhua reports researchers from China and U.S. hybridized GE cotton with conventional cotton to reduce resistance in pink bollworm; could provide key benefits to farmers in developing nations

News: Vietnam news outlet reports on 2017 ISAAA report showing continued growth of biotech crops across the world, highlights environmental benefits and benefits to farmers in developing countries

News: Indian environmental news outlet reports on recent Natural Farming Summit where organic farming expert Kapil Shah warned about GE "Terminator Technology," claimed Bt cotton worsens pest problems, and criticized scientific innovation that puts profits over the environment

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports amount of GM soy and corn imported into Vietnam for animal feed is rapidly growing, causing uncertainty about impact of GMOs on the quality of meat, eggs and milk being consumed

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines Bangladesh's success in GM crop adoption, believes it may inspire innovation in other developing nations, highlighting potential benefits of biotech in countries like India and Myanmar

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: Global Justice Ecology Project urges members to ask European Food Safety Authority to stop working with experts funded by the food industry, asking for a five-year cooling off period in between

News release: Volunteer Reapers promotes latest action in which 120 members destroyed test field of GM rapeseed in Villy-le-Moutier; claims government allows ag companies to market GM seeds without tests to assess environmental risks

News: Italian news site reports former president Obama speaks in Milan at Seeds & Chips conference, says being cautious on GMOs is OK but people should remain open-minded, adding society can't stop discovering new things

Commentary: U.K. environmental advocacy group argues open pond testing of GM algae could be risky to health and environment, claims it's irresponsible to allow tests to proceed with very little regulatory oversight; cites "dramatic uptick in algae bloom" from agricultural nutrient runoff

News: French agricultural news site reports Ingredia created new approach to obtain dairy from cows fed on grass and without GMO food origins

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM thanks supporters for helping raise €12,010 for its planned survey on GMO labeling in imported products, 120 percent over their campaign goal

Commentary: Italian food industry magazine concerned about announcement FDA will raise awareness of biotech benefits, questions directive away from organic and if biotech will be a focus of Trump administration

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news site reports Landless Workers Movement activists attending national agrarian fair denounce chemical, GMO technologies harming health, economics of small farmers, communities, push for agroecological model free of agribusiness control, profit

News: Brazilian radio station reports parliament members schedule vote for project authorizing GM foods in school meals, claim repeal necessary to properly supply essential foodstuffs to meet the nutritional needs of children

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia calls for open national discussion on gene editing because ethical, cultural, societal and ecological implications are enormous; cites Australian Academy of Sciences paper

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, May 8, 2017 9 03:08 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 monitoring included developments related to European Union approval of GM cotton, maize and soy, reaction to a Mexican state's declaration that it is a GE-free region and ongoing coverage of a report on the expanded use of GM crops.

- Members of the European Parliament's Environment Committee have adopted resolutions prohibiting imports of GM cotton and maize due to concerns about the health impacts of the pesticides to which they are resistant. The resolutions will face votes in a May 15-18 plenary session. **See more**.
- Testbiotech has filed a legal case challenging the EU authorization's of the import of GE soybeans produced by Bayer and Monsanto. **See more** Separately, the German NGO issued a release today amplifying new research out of Nature that it claims suggests transgenic maize cultivated in Spain will be able to pass DNA to teosinte plants, prompting the group to argue the EU GM maize approvals pose an environmental threat.
- Mexico-based news outlets reported that indigenous community organizations are questioning Quintana Roo government's recent decree that it is a GE-free region, arguing that such decrees can only be made by federal authorities such as SAGARPA and accusing the state government of a deceptive strategy to demobilize the struggle against GMOs. **See more**.
- The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications report on the global growth of GM crop usage continues to generate coverage in several regions. An article out of Australia noted the report is prompting debate between environmental groups challenging the findings and industry representatives defending them. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Modern Farmer writer questions $3M in federal spending bill for FDA campaign promoting GM foods; notes near-consensus on health safety but claims environmental risks, such as pesticide-resistant pests, exist; cites article on Republican supporters receiving donations from Monsanto

Letter to the editor: Colorado newspaper runs letter from local farmers who support Boulder County GMO crop ban, claiming higher yield with non-GMO farming; alleges Roundup kills microbial vitality of soil

Commentary: Hoosier Ag Today's Gary Truitt reports FDA will spend $3M on campaign to educate consumers about agricultural biotechnology after key stakeholders sought to counter "a tremendous amount of misinformation;" predicts next 100 days could feature "more undoing of Obama era nonsense"

Commentary: Natural News contributor points to new court documents obtained by U.S. Right to Know demonstrating that Monsanto is allegedly "secretly" paying think tanks such as Genetic Literacy Project and American Council on Science and Health to promote safety of glyphosate and discredit "Health Ranger" Mike Adams

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent workshop organized by National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) and Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) to encourage collaboration of regulatory agencies, Minister of State for Environment Ibrahim Jibril noted importance of not running away from benefits of biotech and GMOs

News: South Africa's Engineering News reports Competition Commission approved Bayer acquisition of Monsanto upon condition that Bayer sell Liberty Link trait technology with obligations for buyer to commercialize

News: Nigerian news outlet reports women's rights activist speaks against GMO opponents raising false alarm about health and safety implications; adds outright opposition to new farm science directly contributes to continued growth of poverty and hunger in Nigeria

News: Ghanaian business news outlet reports on recent workshop where CropLife Ghana President William Kottey noted inadequate knowledge about products and inefficient import controls, leading to entry of illegal products, could undermine efforts to mitigate risks of pesticides to human health and the environment

News: French political news outlet reports on controversy surrounding Monsanto's GM cotton in Burkina Faso, Blandine Sankara of Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAE) praised government decision to halt cultivation of Monsanto's Bt cotton

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on development of non-GMO vitamin A rich cassava varieties by National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and HarvestPlus, highlighting World Bank estimate that Nigeria loses $1.5 billion per year in GDP due to vitamin deficiencies

More Africa items

Asia

Study: University of Arizona, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences publish study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences find hybrid of Bt cotton, non-Bt cotton prevents, reverses pesticide resistance in pink bollworm

News release: University of Arizona researchers contribute to study conducted in China finding hybrid mix of Bt cotton, non-Bt cotton in same field maintains pink bollworm susceptibility to pesticide, reverses evolution of resistance

Campaign: Italy resident launches Change.org petition calling on government of India to stop GMO trials claiming health risks, crop contamination, creation of superweeds, impact on bees, contamination of waterways

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: British author Matt Ridley shares his recent Times column, an open letter to George Freeman MP, in which he calls for Britain to adopt the Innovation Principle, arguing that the Precautionary Principle is very harmful to innovation, pointing to lengthy and costly process of developing biotech products and pesticides

News: Agrow reports Testbiotech initiates lawsuit against the European Commission for approving the import and food-feed use of three GMO soybean lines from Bayer and Monsanto

News: Dutch food industry news outlet reports on MEPs' opposition to EU Commission plans to authorize imports of herbicide-tolerant GM maize and cotton in two new resolutions, highlighting concerns about

health risks of 2,4-D

News release: U.K. NGO GM Freeze voices opposition to Defra's approval of open air field trial of GM potatoes at The Sainsbury Laboratory, voicing concerns about food safety and GM contamination, and arguing that the potatoes have no benefit to society

News: Horticulture Week reports GM orange petunias found in the U.K. and Finland despite being banned in the EU; government trying to figure out the origin of the plants and seeds

News release: Testbiotech funds, amplifies research finding ongoing hybridization of maize and teosinte in Spain, suggesting Spain-grown GM maize will likely share DNA with local teosinte varieties, group believes findings will cause EU Commission to stop cultivation of GM maize

News: Swiss news site shares ISAAA report finding Mexico, Brazil, India areas of growth for GMO crops while Switzerland has moratorium; notes GM free zones in Mexico, India's effort to position country as "a champion of research" for GMO cotton

Commentary: German GMO-free site highlights increase in food products containing GM-free labels in Germany, notes Cargill's involvement with the Non-GMO Project shows demand from U.S. consumers

News: Agrow reports members of the European Parliament's Environment Committee have made another call for the European Commission to abandon proposed approvals for genetically modified crops

Report: EFSA releases annual post-market environmental report on MON 810, concluding no "decrease in susceptibility" to corn borers, also shows no effects on human or animal health

Commentary: German anti-genetic engineering information site reports in discussion on gene editing, scientists favor it as useful, low-cost, low-risk breeding tool for plants and animals; opponents say classifying gene editing as non-GE takes away freedom of choice from those opposed to genetic manipulation

Commentary: Organic farmer Tijs Boelens and Corporate Europe Observatory's Nina Holland write for Belgian news outlet, criticizing Young Green party's position on GMOs as demonstrating a "lack of knowledge," they claim there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, and voice concern about influence of industry lobbyists

Study: Nature Genetics publishes Finland-led study examining adaptive landscape of the silver birch tree in Europe

News release: University of Buffalo promotes faculty research sequencing genomes of the silver birch tree across Europe; notes the research could be a starting point for breeding trees that better meet the needs of various industries

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Monsanto's legal claim against Santa Fe cooperative in Chaco, Unión Agrícola Avellaneda, for alleged unauthorized use of insect resistant Intacta soy technology

News: Mexican news outlet reports on indigenous community organizations' questioning of Quintana Roo government's recent GE-free region decree, arguing that such decrees can only be made by federal authorities such as SAGARPA, and accusing state government of deceptive strategy to demobilize struggle against GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news site reports on annual ISAAA report; CropLife Australia CEO says

Australian farmers embrace GM seeds, lower pesticide, fuel use, greater flexibility; anti-GMO lobbyist Bob Phelps says only Brazil, U.S. saw meaningful growth, no new traits in GM seeds

Commentary: Tasmanian news site article by anti-GMO lobbyist negatively views ISAAA report stating GM crop growth primarily in U.S., Brazil; claims complex traits such as drought tolerance not delivered, GM seed companies merging due to small consumer market for GM foods

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 8, 2017
Date: Monday, May 8, 2017 4:03:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's newsletter features articles on a wide range of topics:

- a response to a World Health Organization report that suggested pesticides play a key role in the death of children around the world;
- a U.K. research group suggesting the evidence for a European ban of neonics is lacking;
- thoughts from a Nobel laureate and other scientists on the potential of a genetically engineered moth;
- a New Zealand regulatory scientist criticizing a United Nations special report on pesticides;
- an examination of the growth of GMO crops in Bangladesh;
- a criticism of biotechnology opponents in Nigeria;
- and more ...

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: AgroEcology Fund

While the AgroEcology Fund has not been a prominent figure in the news, its grantees (including Vandana Shiva, the Center for Food Safety and La Via Campesina) are making headlines almost daily across the globe attacking modern agriculture.

With a particular focus on

Stories Worth Sharing

Angela Logomasini: "Misguided" World Health Organization report faults pesticides for children's deaths when poverty is the real cause

Kavin Senapathy: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts sees GM diamondback moth as tool to fight the pest without insecticides

International research panel: New terminology needed to tackle antibiotic resistance; blame should not be placed on agriculture

Alex Berezow: U.S. Right to Know's anti-GMO efforts feed Russian propaganda

Julie Gunlock: Removing GMOs from store shelves won't improve public health but will impact Americans' food budgets

Scotland's Herald: Rothamsted Research team sees "lack of hard evidence" to support European neonic restrictions

New Zealand EPA chief scientist: UN special report misinterprets negative impact of pesticides, which increase crop yields

"Farm Babe" Michelle Miller: Natural, antibiotic-free, cage-free, organic labels all misleading

campaigns in Africa and Latin America, the AgroEcology Fund promotes activities to ban plant biotechnology, pesticides and other conventional agriculture practices and to restrict or block the use of these tools via legislative lobbying, lawsuits and other public advocacy campaigns.

Run with the support of the influential Arabella Advisors and their New Ventures Fund, the AgroEcology Fund advisory board also includes representatives from Greenpeace and the Pesticide Action Network.

CLICK HERE to learn more about the AgroEcology Fund.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Caleb Onwe: "Horrifying level of ignorance and suspicion" evident among Nigerian opponents of biotechnology

Genetic Literacy Project: With Bt brinjal, field trials of other crops, Bangladesh becoming major producer of beneficial GM crops

Universify of Tennessee promotes study finding no measurable impact on honeybees from agricultural pesticide exposure

AgChat Foundation video shows how to exfract DNA from strawberries, explains how genetic modification benefits consumers

Henry Miller: Colleges misleading students about sustainable farming, organic methods "hugely wasteful of arable land and water"

Stephan Neidenbach: "Zero evidence" that Monsanto pays people to post positive comments about the company online

Farmers Guardian: Easy for EU bureaucrats to shun biotechnology in Africa because their families are not the ones starving

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Commission releases new proposal to identify endocrine-disrupting chemicals, sets possible mid-May vote

ISAAA report: 3 percent more GM crops grown last year, with biggest increase in Brazil

Lab study by Canadian, U.K. researchers concludes thiamethoxam could impair bumblebee reproduction

Tyson to eliminate antibiotics from its poultry by end of 2017

Walmart, True Value commit to phasing out neonic products and neonic-treated plants

Calendar highlights

May 8-11	May 8-12	May 9-10
Seed & Chips Global Food Innovation Summit	Agrotopia Academy of Agroecology conference in Belgium	Chemical Watch Biocides Symposium in Barcelona, Spain
May 10-11	**May 10-11**	**May 11-13**
North Carolina Biotechnology Center's Ag Biotech Entrepreneurial Showcase	Inaugural Animal Nutrition Conference of Canada	Seeds of Resilience Summit in Atrisco, N.M.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database

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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Date: Monday, May 8, 2017 12:44:30 AM

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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 Syngenta shareholders approving the ChemChina offer. Activist and organic groups objected to the U.S. government budgeting $3 million for a public information campaign on GM food. Following a U.S. Right to Know FOIA request, the *Canadian Broadcasting Corp.* reported on alleged conflicts of interest by the University of Saskatchewan's Peter Phillips in partnering with Monsanto.

- Syngenta shareholders voted Friday to approve ChemChina's $43 billion purchase bid. NGO Pesticide Action Network noted the National Farmers Union and Iowa Farmers Union oppose the deal. The National Farmers Union claimed the merger would give Syngenta an unfair advantage in the Chinese market. **See more**.
- EcoWatch, March Against Monsanto, and Whole Foods magazine criticized the proposed federal budget for including $3 million to inform the public regarding GMO safety. Whole Foods noted the natural food industry opposes GMOs for health and environmental reasons. **See more**.
- *CBC* reported on emails that USRTK's Gary Ruskin claims show professor Peter Phillips has a conflict of interest because of his work with Monsanto. Ruskin said Monsanto recruited a team of top academics in a "Machiavellian" effort to sway public opinion. **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: In part 3 of 5-part series, Daily Camera columnist Mara Abbott points out county's GMO ban means beet farmers cannot cultivate beets, disrupts sustainable system that saves water, reduces pesticide use, sequesters more carbon

News: Dow Jones Newswire reports Monsanto turns to new gene-edited crops, but faces more competition from DuPont, Dow

Commentary: Forbes columnist says Nobel Laureate Roberts calls diamondback moth a serious pest of crops such as cabbage and broccoli, feels GM diamondback moth provides another tool to fight it; Cornell University seeks approval for open field trial for the self-limiting moth

Commentary: EcoWatch contributor reports on Congressional budget deal allocating $3 million for what she refers to as a "government-controlled propaganda campaign" on GMO safety, amplifies argument by Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell that Monsanto has plenty of money, meaning GMO advocacy should not be left to taxpayers

Commentary: Science blogger Stephan Neidenbach lists 10 best memes illustrating why we should support GM technology

News: Daily Caller reports on Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue's recent statement of opinion that labeling food as organic or non-GMO is mainly a marketing strategy, regarding federal GMO labeling law, Perdue

emphasized importance of providing consumers with all of the information they want without burdening and disrupting the supply chain

Commentary: Jon Entine and Rebecca Randall write for Genetic Literacy Project, examining many environmental benefits of no-till systems, and how glyphosate and herbicide-tolerant GM crops facilitate them, they acknowledge that over-reliance on one chemical can lead to resistance, and advocate diverse weed management strategies

Commentary: News Target contributor responds to recent Forbes article by Kavin Senapathy, accusing her of hypocrisy in her assessment that anti-GMO movement is sexist for targeting moms, pointing to her letter campaign with other pro-GMO moms in response to Just Label It's celebrity mom campaign

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Farmers Guardian editorial says African drive for innovation and science to meet food security needs exposes EU's arrogance and detachment from farming realities, adds bureaucrats in Brussels shun GM crops because "when they return home, they will not find their families starving"

News: Ghana news site reports former deputy ag minister says Ghana needs GM technology for food security, says Africa should benefit from biotechnology

News: Xinhua News Agency reports scientists are stressing novel technologies, partnerships, awareness campaigns are key to containing fall armyworms that are ravaging crops in several African countries

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports think-tank NITI Aayog points to growing acceptance of GM crops, notes Bt cotton success in India, draws ire of RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch accuses it of serving corporations, disputes that Indian farmers enthusiastic about Bt cotton

News: Indian news site reports area planted with Bt cotton declined for first time in 2016 after bad experience the previous year

Commentary: UN ESCAP Committee on Science Technology & Innovation director says Pakistan, world need GM crops to feed growing population, GM mosquitoes can help control disease

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news site reports molecular biology researcher Nina Fedoroff says continuous population growth requires GM crops to help grow more food with fewer resources; notes humans have modified food for centuries

News release: EuropaBio issues call for applications for Most Innovative European Biotech SME Awards 2017, inviting small and medium sized biotech companies to apply in either healthcare, agricultural or industrial biotech, applications are due June 26

Commentary: In sponsored content for Politico, EuropaBio posts interactive quiz on GM crops in Europe, pointing out paradox of widespread opposition to GM crops while EU relies heavily on GM imports, the quiz highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, as well as statistics on GM crop adoption

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mayan news site writer criticizes government for non-legally binding declaration that

Quintana Roo is GMO-free while Monsanto has GM soy permit; says government turns its back on Mayans, beekeepers, farmers; calls for canceling Monsanto's GMO license

News: Argentina news site reports Greenpeace report denounces seed bill, claims conflict of interest for officials, direct links from scientific NGOs supporting bill for seed, agrochemical companies; alleges bill would harm native people, environment, health of farmers, food quality

News: Ecuadorian news site reports national assembly approves seed law with 76 affirmative and 20 abstaining votes, debate on law "defined by prohibition of the entry and use of transgenic seeds" and protection, marketing and exchange of native seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian beekeeping supply site details threats of neonics in Part 1 of two-part series, cites studies finding neonics help farmers economically, but notes the studies are suspect because they were chemical industry funded, highlights other findings of insecticides linked to CCD, viruses, reduced reproduction, foraging problems in bees

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 monitoring included the release of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications' annual report. European Commissioners said the EU needs "a broad reflection" on new breeding techniques (NBTs) in light of a scientific report on gene editing.

- The ISAAA annual report revealed 26 countries grew biotech crops on 185.1 million hectares, an increase of 5.4 million hectares or 3 percent over 2015. Anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM disputed the ISAAA's figures. **See more**.
- EurActiv reported a European Commission spokesman said the Scientific Advice Mechanism report on NBTs shows the EU should "move away from a GMO-centered discussion" regarding plant breeding innovation because the techniques are so different they should not be evaluated as a group. *The Epoch Times* reported Greenpeace is campaigning to regulate NBTs as GMOs. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Henry Miller writes for National Review, criticizing Stanford University's organic teaching gardens as misleading, points out several ways in which organic ag practices are less sustainable than conventional, including greater land use due to lower yields, believes it makes no sense that modern technologies like GMOs are shunned

Commentary: Kauai blogger amplifies Washington Post, Boulder Daily Camera pieces casting doubt on perceived benefits of organic farming, foods

News: Politico's morning ag news roundup reports recently passed omnibus spending bill includes $3 million for FDA consumer outreach program on biotech, while it did not include rules for how USDA should implement GM food labeling, Ag Secretary Perdue emphasized importance of providing consumers with access to information they want

More North America items

Africa

News: U.S.-based farming news site reports South Africa is only food-secure nation in Africa, despite farmers facing numerous hardships; notes it also grows GM crops

News: Cameroon Tribune reports African experts brainstorming on biosafety capacity development during two-day meeting in the nation's capital; NEPAD regional head says biosafety must be protected while biotechnology is used

Commentary: Agriculturalist Isaac Ongu writes for Genetic Literacy Project, reporting on recent Earth

Day observance and science march in Uganda, highlighting students who came out to march to show support for biotech

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports Negros Occidental to expand anti-GMO law to use in fight against HFCS, also could come to legislate against other GM products

Commentary: Contributor to Indian publication Swarajya voices concern about several new technologies including GMOs, claiming they pose health risks and push farmers into a cycle of dependency, and points out that pests have developed resistance to Monsanto's Bt cotton

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Natural Society reports GMO "super wheat" approved to be grown in U.K. cross-contamination concerns; notes unauthorized Roundup Ready wheat has been discovered growing in U.S. fields at least four times

News: Belgium news source reports the European Academies' Science Advisory Council says the EU needs to "urgently" clarify the status of organisms bred using gene editing because they fall outside the scope of regulations on GMOs; notes EASAC's recommendations intended to provide road map for policymakers

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadorian environmental NGO warns draft seed law establishes artificial division by stating native seeds constitute people's heritage but genetic resources are state's patrimony

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand announces benefit of ability for regions to declare themselves GE-free, pointing to recent Nielsen survey showing 70 percent of Chinese consumers seek out non-GMO products, noting New Zealand's free trade deal with China has seen investment due to GE-free status

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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 an American Council on Science and Health article asserting that U.S. Right to Know campaigns aid Russian propaganda. A Colorado columnist continued a series on the Boulder County Commission's decision to ban GM crops from public lands. The struggle to commercialize GM crops in Nigeria continued as a biotech agency director and NGO directors advocated for and against biotechnology in the country.

- ACSH's Alex Berezow demonstrated how U.S. Right to Know director Gary Ruskin, along with the Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins, aids Russian propaganda by undermining Americans' confidence in science and technology. **See more**.
- A Colorado newspaper columnist continued her series of articles on Boulder County's ban on GMOs, noting that the organic movement profits from making a "bogeyman" of GM crops. **See more**.
- Nigeria's National Biotechnology Development Agency director said GM crops are key to Nigeria's food security, while two environmental and health NGOs called for repeal of the National Biosafety Act and Monsanto's GMO permits. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Washington Post reports FDA will allocate $3 million to fund campaign to promote GMOs in food under recently passed government budget agreement, following recent letter from over 50 ag and food industry groups voicing concern about widespread misinformation about biotech, opponents believe taxpayers shouldn't pay for industry PR

News release: Cornell University promotes Gates Foundation-funded study published in Nature Genetics journal finding cassava is genetically decaying, putting important crop at risk

Commentary: North Carolina State University genetic engineering researcher writing in Slate details how synthetic biology allows government to engineer insects to deliver protective genes to plants and other advances to use for military applications, focusing on countering biological threats

Commentary: Michigan news source publishes piece by Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce researcher who highlights biotech products' unpopularity with some consumers, notes they have increased production significantly

Commentary: Rachel Parent writes for Huffington Post Canada in support of mandatory GMO labeling, highlighting Health Canada survey which found that 78 percent of Canadians want GMO labeling, claims there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, and that proposed labeling bill is not anti-GMO, but pro-transparency

News: Capital Press reports on EPA approval of herbicide to control GM bentgrass that escaped field trials, drifted in two Ontario counties

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: Third World Network bookstore posts "Bt Cotton in Burkina Faso: When Theory Does Not Match Reality," claiming to tell the story of the failure of GM cotton in the country, discusses reasons for "debacle," including commercial interest in pushing corporate-owned Bt technology

News: Nigerian news outlet reports President of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria believes biotech crops will facilitate agricultural growth and food security, urges anti-GM advocates to not play politics with biotech

News: South African newspaper reports African Centre for Biodiversity is asking court to overturn government decisions to approve commercialization of Monsanto's drought-resistant maize; spokesman claims group objects due to "environmental damage" and restrictions on farmers' ability to save seeds

News: Nigerian newspaper amplifies joint statement of environmental and health NGOs calling for repeal of National Biosafety Act, revocation of Monsanto's GMO permits to protect nation's food, environment

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines Bangladesh's success in GM crop development, highlighting successful adoption of Bt eggplant, and field trials of Bt cotton, GM disease-resistant potato, and golden rice, believes Bangladesh has potential to become a major producer of GM crops

News: Chinese news outlet reports on Ministry of Science and Technology's new plan for biotech innovation, which estimates that China's biotech sector will exceed four percent of GDP by 2020, with biotech advancements expected in medicine, agriculture, resources and environmental protection

News: Xinhua reports China has conditionally approved Dow-DuPont merger, asks companies to divest some businesses as precondition of approval; notes the conglomerate would control 40 percent of China's weed-killer market

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agrow reports advisers say new plant breeding techniques need separate EU reviews because they differ from GMOs significantly

Video: CropLife shares series of videos touting biotech crops as solution for food security in various African countries; highlights Water Efficient Maize for Africa, cowpea, cotton

News: Western Balkans news site reports Serbian grain association director says Serbia likely to "soften its position" on its GMO ban in order to join WTO

News: Bulgarian agricultural news site reports GMO Resistance meeting attracts 130 activists from 30 countries; says activists look to counter agribusinesses that seek to change definition of GMOs, call for "convergence of actions around the world against" GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports peasant group leader denounces state government for weakness in protecting beekeeping from GM crops; said risk is ministers will support GM crops, which will lead to beekeeping disaster

News: Telesur reports activists sue Monsanto for countering negative Internet comments with hired individuals to post positive comments about GMOs, other products; claims Monsanto uses "pseudo-scientific" studies to back its safety claims

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania in today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology monitoring today featured a new European Food Safety Authority draft risk assessment on low-level GMO presence in food and feed imports, a preview of field-trial research on genetically engineered algae and stakeholder response to and new developments in the major agribusiness mergers.

- The European Food Safety Authority opened a public consultation on of the low-level presence of genetically modified plant material in imported food and feed. It will accept comments through June 13. **See more**
- An embargoed news release from the University of California, San Diego announces faculty scientists and researchers from Sapphire Energy have completed the first outdoor field trial sanctioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for genetically engineered algae. Results showed that genetically engineered algae can be successfully cultivated outdoors without adversely impacting native algae populations. The research will appear in the journal *Algal Research*. The release is embargoed until Thursday (May 4). **See more**
- The China Ministry of Commerce approved the Dow-DuPont merger contingent on DuPont divesting components of its pesticide business (**see more**). Meanwhile, the National Farmers Union wrote a letter urging U.S. Federal Trade Commission Secretary Donald Clark to oppose the ChemChina-Syngenta merger due to concerns it would disrupt trade flows and accelerate agriculture industry consolidation (**see more**). In Europe, several MEPs wrote to Bayer shareholders to urge them to stop the planned merger with Monsanto, claiming Monsanto's environmentally unfriendly business practices would damage Bayer's image (**see more**).

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project managing editor Tim Barker examines debate over National Academies of Science's GMO report, highlights argument by Val Giddings and Henry Miller that the report did not go far enough in affirming consensus on GMO safety, and that it contains several inaccuracies

News release: Danforth Plant Science Center announces its researchers have discovered gene that influences grain yield in grasses related to food crops; lead researcher says new determinant identified in control of grain yield that could be crucial to improving food crops like maize

Commentary: Robert Schooler, Cornell student and creator of an anti-GMO course, writes open letter to Bill Nye criticizing GMO episode of his new Netflix show, accuses Nye of spreading propaganda, ignoring science on risks of GMOs, and dismissing valid concerns, criticizes appearance by Monsanto's Robb Fraley

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association email asks Canadian residents to call MPs and tell them to vote yes on Bill C-291 requiring labels on foods containing GMOs; second debate on bill set for May 5

News release: Biotechnology Innovation Organization welcomes release of US Trade Representative's 2017 intellectual property rights report, notes emphasis on legal protections, enforcement issues, restrictive patentability criteria, lengthy patent backlogs, and threat of outright expropriation affecting future of biotechnology

News: Science magazine reports "Food Evolution" documentary helping show benefits of GM crops helping to convince undecided public, skeptics still wary of safety; notes Ugandan farmer excited about GM banana government will not allow her to grow

News: CBC reports AquaBounty facility on Prince Edward Island to produce GE salmon will not need new federal assessment, Atlantic Salmon Federation worries fish sterilization not guaranteed

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins calls for help building "resist and regenerate" meetup groups to fight corporate takeover of America's democracy, says USDA decision to not test foods for Roundup and EPA's reversal on Dow's chlorpyrifos are part of national emergency

News: Associated Press reports court delays first of tens of thousands of lawsuits against Syngenta for introducing GE corn variety before China approved it for imports

More North America items

Africa

News: French news outlet reports Common Front formed out of recently completed Second International Meeting of Resistance to GMOs in Lorient, actions to be primarily directed towards Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science says recent March for Science in Nigeria aimed at fostering better relationships between scientific community and public; speakers addressed safe adoption of biotechnology in agriculture, adding science has played vital role in green revolution

Commentary: Nigerian news site columnist writes about Earth Day observance in Abuja, laments country's "horrifying level of ignorance and suspicion" of science, as evidenced by public outcry opposing biotechnology; amplifies remarks by director of National Biotechnology Development Agency on biotechnology's potential as solution to food security

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Treehugger amplifies Fairtrade International report on multiple long-term threats facing cotton farmers, including climate change, food security and biotechnology; adds India farmer suicides linked to "ugly cycle of dependence" on GM seeds and chemicals

Commentary: EcoWatch amplifies Reuters report of declining GM soy sales in China, claims consumers "growing increasingly wary" of GM products and asking for non-GM alternatives, despite government assurances of safety

More Asia items

Europe

Audio: Radio France Internationale podcast talks to activist Elsa Garrido about her hunger strike and launch of Sao Tome and Principe Pro-Environment Movement against introduction of GM maize on Sao Tome Island

News: The Scientist reports on John Innes Centre researchers' development of transgenic plants that reduce the green peach aphid's chance of survival and the aphid's ability to develop pesticide resistance quickly

Commentary: EuropaBio calls for EU member states to "overcome GMO hypocrisy" in sponsored content for Politico, criticizing member states that vote against GM imports even though their economies are dependent on GMOs, highlights many benefits of GM crops, and potential to improve food security and the economy

News: Politico's morning ag roundup reports on Health Canada's assessment that glyphosate is safe for humans and the environment, several MEPs write letter to Bayer shareholders opposing acquisition of Monsanto, Cornell Alliance for Science corrects Politico's reporting on its assessment of AAAS study on GM crop safety

Commentary: French political magazine amplifies biologist Christian Velot's speech at international Lorient conference against GMOs, claims ag companies lie to consumers on animal feed ingredients, strong mobilization of citizens keeps Monsanto from being accepted

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news source amplifies Plant Biotechnology Journal study by scientists from Japan's Riken Institute and CIAT researchers reporting on development of "very promising" drought-resistant GM rice

News: Mexican news site reports state government legal counsel declares Yucatan will remain GM-free, counsel says decision made for "health of the people and to preserve the environment"

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania in today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Date: Monday, May 1, 2017 9 05:38 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 monitoring today featured discussion of how Europe should regulate new breeding techniques, promotion of research sequencing the complete genome of barley and additional opposition to Nigeria's biosafety bill from the Health of Mother Earth Foundation.

- The EU Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism published an explanatory note asserting that new techniques, which include genome editing, differ enough that it is "not optimal" to group them together and they should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The note will be debated at a Sept. 28 meeting. In Germany, the agriculture ministry opened a multi-part dialogue on genome editing, with the next debate scheduled for June. **See more**.
- The University of California-Riverside and Australia's Murdoch University issued news released promoting their researchers' involvement in a paper published in *Nature* on sequencing the complete genome of barley. Researchers say the findings will help them create more resilient and higher-yielding barley varieties through breeding and genetic modification. Coverage noted the research could lead to better beer and whiskey. **See more**.
- The Health of Mother Earth Foundation promoted its recent training session for journalists that claimed Nigeria's biosafety bill would benefit corporations and GM crops could pose risks to human health and the environment. It also gained local coverage in *The Guardian* newspaper. **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

Event: Committee for Skeptical Inquiry hosting annual conference Oct. 26-29 in Las Vegas, Kevin Folta and Kavin Senapathy among scheduled speakers

Commentary: Huffington Post editor highlights public misperception around GMOs in trailer to Bill Nye's Netflix show, "Bill Nye Saves the World"

Commentary: Daily Camera community columnist, in first of five-part GMO series, speaks out against Boulder County GMO ban and anti-GM advocacy groups who attack GM crops as "proxy" for other issues, affirms technology offers environmental and economic benefits

Commentary: Extra Newsfeed contributor criticizes GMO episode of Bill Nye's new Netflix show, notes that while there is nothing wrong with GMOs in and of themselves and that they are safe for human consumption, he opposes corporate control of our food system and Monsanto's business practices, criticizes Nye for having a Monsanto executive on his panel

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides reports on field trials of mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia bacteria near Key West, in effort to curb spread of zika, highlights development of GE mosquitoes as well as several pesticides that are frequently used for mosquito control, advocates use of less risky alternatives

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter blogger Amanda Zaluckyj explains several environmental and economic benefits of no-till systems, notes GM crops make it easier to employ no-till on a wider scale

Commentary: Hoosier Ag Today staffer highlights University of Illinois study that consumers place more trust in food attribute labels such as "hormone-free," "non-GMO" than nutrition, health, price; notes labels not regulated, do not have to be factual, imply that hormones are used in some poultry when they are not

Commentary: Natural News claims study on GM nematodes shows genetic modifications "can persist and remain active throughout many generations" and have lasting effect on species "more far reaching than we could have ever imagined"

Event: French-American Science Festival 2017 includes May 2 presentation in Chicago by AgroParisTech, Pennsylvania State University professor on recent applications of genome-editing technologies in crops, farm animals; notes need for new EU regulatory approach for new cultivated plant varieties

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports anti-GMO advocacy group, in training session for journalists, claims country's GM crops are cancerous, unsafe for environment; add current Biosafety Act signed under pressure from commercial groups

Commentary: Joyce Ebebeinwe of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) writes for Nigerian environment news site, recounting recent Media Training on Biosafety event, where HOMEF director Nnimmo Bassey warned that Nigeria's biosafety bill may serve corporate interests over the people's, other speakers pointed to health and environmental risks of GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor claims Green Revolution and use of agricultural chemicals has led to soil depletion and other negative environmental effects, advocates transition to organic practices, notes government assistance will be necessary to help farmers make the transition

Commentary: Research intern at Carnegie India writes for local news outlet, advocates increased advancement in RNAi research, highlighting enormous potential of the technology in both medicine and agriculture, points to India's challenges with traditional GMOs, including GM mustard controversy

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports protesters from Middle East, Europe, South Africa gather in Brittany to oppose seizure and licensing of seeds, imposition of GMO seeds, affirm right to food sovereignty

News release: German Federation for the Organic Food Industry's (BÖLW) Managing Director Peter Röhrig made statement at recent Food and Ag Ministry dialogue event, where he voiced concern that patents are already being registered on products of new breeding techniques, despite lack of clarity on legal status of technologies like CRISPR

News release: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) announces allocation of six million Euros to fund a "National Research Strategy BioEconomy 2030" crop improvement initiative over the next two years, Research Minister Johanna Wanka emphasized need for crops with higher yields that are resistant to effects of climate change

Announcement: German government's Bioeconomy Council notes beginning of agriculture ministry's multi-part dialogue process on dealing with genome editing; next discussion planned for June 26

News release: European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism promotes review finding new techniques in agricultural biotechnology, including gene editing, differ significantly and it is "not optimal" to group them together; public debate planned Sept. 28

News: U.K. subscription agriculture news site reports on French government report ruling gene-editing technology such as CRISPR should be exempted from laws governing GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Quintana Roo Environment Secretary Alfredo Arellano's support of beekeepers in efforts to keep the state GMO-free, noting negative impact of GM soy on honey production

News: Colombian news outlet reports on recent tests by National University of Colombia Food Science and Technology master's student which found traces of GMOs in 13 maize cereal samples, several of which were labeled as organic, highlights Colombia's current GMO labeling laws

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Guardian examines future of Australia's cotton industry, concerns over water use and climate change impacts; highlights national science agency's work with Monsanto to roll out genetically modified varieties better suited to Australia's climate

News: Australian Associated Press reports Murdoch University professor leads global team to map two of seven chromosomes of barley DNA; findings will be used to modify crops to increase tolerance to drought, heat, avoid disease, yield better beer

News release: Murdoch University professor leads global alliance to map two of seven barley chromosomes allowing for identification of genes that control yield, adaption to climate, quality, pest, disease tolerance; university department head says discovery will enhance industry productivity, profitability, global food security

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 1, 2017
Date: Monday, May 1, 2017 4:01:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Issues with armyworms in southern Africa have drawn international media coverage and a response from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, we feature an editorial from Uganda suggesting that this year's pest issues should encourage the government to pass a biotechnology bill that would help prevent pest issues for farmers in the future.

Other items include a criticism of California's plan to list glyphosate as a carcinogen based on the questionable findings of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a piece by National Cattlemen's Beef Association CEO Kendal Frazier questioning the motives of the Humane Society of the United States and a study suggesting most teachers in Mexico would be interested in learning more about genetically modified foods.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: Christopher Portier

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) expert consultant and Environmental Defense Fund senior scientist Chris Portier is generating social media buzz this week after it was disclosed he is now also

Stories Worth Sharing

Uganda's Daily Monitor: Armyworm infestation a reminder to pass biotechnology bill so farmers have protection against pests

Richard Levine: U.S. Geological Survey expert sees habitat loss - not neonics - as key threat to wild bees

Julie Kelly/Henry Miller: California's listing of glyphosate as potential carcinogen based on "flawed" logic of IARC

Hank Campbell: Activist groups single out American Council on Science and Health as blocking spread of "fear and doubt about farming"

National Cattlemen's Beef Association CEO: "Radical" Humane Society has singular goal of putting cattlemen out of business

Jenny Splitter: "I don't have to buy organic to make sure my kids are safer or healthier" because GM, conventional foods are safe

Science 2.0: Study claiming thiamethoxam impacts bees' ability to fly not based on real world tests

Mexican research: 47 percent of teachers say they don't know enough about GM foods, 90 percent interested in learning more

serving as an expert consultant in lawsuits alleging glyphosate causes health risks, including cancer.

Portier led the IARC committee that decided to review glyphosate while failing to disclose his direct conflicts of interest being employed by an NGO known for its advocacy opposing pesticide use. He later was appointed to serve as the only invited outside expert to the subsequent IARC committee that claimed glyphosate causes cancer.

Since that time, Portier has been lobbying U.S. and European governments to ban the herbicide and is now also profiting from plaintiffs' attorneys suing over its use.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Portier.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Center for Consumer Freedom research director: Activist demands on antibiotics, organic farming "aren't actually good for the environment"

The Hindu: Biofortification could be the solution for dietary micronutrient deficiencies

Iowa editorial: Farmers demonstrating how collaboration with conservationists can preserve soil and water

Genetic Literacy Project: Australia losing out on economic benefits, reduced herbicide use and greenhouse gas emissions due to sluggish adoption of GM crops

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Syngenta CEO: ChemChina deal expected to close in May

Defra rejects National Farmers Union's request for exemption to European neonics ban

Prince Edward Island accepting public comments on AquaBounty proposal to expand GE salmon operation

European College of Commissioners bumps glyphosate reauthorization from meeting agenda

University of California-San Diego study claims thiamethoxam exposure disrupts honeybees' ability to fly

Calendar highlights

May 1	May 2	May 3-4
NGOs mobilize for May Day	Environmental Working Group "Earth Dinner" to honor Whole Foods CEO	Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit
May 4-5	**May 4**	**May 6**
UCLA Chemical Entanglements Symposium featuring Tyrone Hayes, Andrea Gore	Cornell University Antimicrobial Resistance Symposium with keynote from CDC official	Tyrone Hayes, Warren Porter speak at Ecology Center "Pesticides, corporations and scientific integrity" event

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 28-30, 2017
Date: Sunday, April 30, 2017 9:03:12 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 protests at a Bayer shareholder meeting. NGOs meeting in France intend to coordinate activist actions worldwide, and reports indicated Chinese consumers' fear of GM products is impacting producers.

- *Reuters* and German media reported demonstrators outside a Bayer shareholders meeting protested the company's purchase of Monsanto. Bayer CEO Werner Baumann told shareholders Monsanto's reputation will be a "major challenge," but the acquisition is a "perfect fit for our strategy" and creates "substantial additional value." **See more**.
- Reuters reported Chinese consumers' fear of GMOs is beginning impact the crushing industry, which relies on GM soy. **See the Reuters report**.*The American Interest* amplified the report and commented, "It's vitally important that this emotional rejection of GMOs is fought" because GM products are needed to feed an expanding world population. **See** *The American Interest* **article**.
- The "GMO Resistance" meeting in Lorient, France, sought "to coordinate the action of activists from all continents," according to French radio news site Hit West. The site reported delegates from NGOs in 30 nations attended the weekend event. During the meeting, Ali Tapsoba from Burkina Faso told participants, "If we allow multinationals to privatize seeds, they will decide how we think (and) eat." **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: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, praising CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Sanjay Gupta's decision to back out of 6th annual Food Revolution Summit, noting other "experts" listed on the summit include Vandana Shiva and David Perlmutter, and that the event's website contains false information about GMO safety

Commentary: Boston Globe amplifies The Ecologist article claiming gene-edited and synbio products are less predictable than GMOs, thus they should have more stringent regulations; says genetic engineers trying to dodge GE stigma

News: Daily Caller reports on Harvard physician Jeremy Faust's concerns about recent science march, highlighting his argument that science is being undermined from within, as researchers are pressured to publish research rapidly and continuously, and his criticism of several environmental groups for false belief that GMOs are dangerous

Commentary: Wesley Smith of Institute of Religion and Public Life publication First Things accuses Bill Nye of undermining science by politicizing it, criticizes recent science march, notes certain views on controversial issues like GMOs are frequently labeled "anti-science," questions authority of scientific consensus

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Executive Director of the Nigeria-based NGO, Every Woman Hope Centre says modern biotech is a 'boon' to biodiversity, all Nigerians must beware of 'misleading activism'; asserts that incessant clamor against the Biosafety Act directly contributes to the continued poverty and hunger

News: Reuters reports fall armyworm invasion has spread to Angola, according to FAO's Joyce Mulila Mitti, who noted that small farmers often don't have the money or expertise to use pesticides effectively

News: Local news source reports HOMEF is urging the Nigerian government to nullify permits granted to Monsanto for the commercialization of GMO maize and cotton; notes the group blames NABDA, which was not established to 'promote toxic chemicals in the country'

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports RSS group wins GMO debate with think-tank Niti Aayog, notes Niti-Aayog's draft of 3-year-plan says alternatives to GM crops should be explored

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on debate over GMO safety, highlights claims that GMOs cause increased toxicity and allergencity, and that they are harmful to soil health and biodiversity, also reports on debate surrounding GMO labeling in the US and the EU

News: Asian Scientist reports Chinese researchers have, for the first time, developed an easier way to edit multiple genes with CRISPR technology, ultimately demonstrating 'high efficiency multiplex gene editing in plants'

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news site reports ag association Coldiretti claims honey imported from China contains GM pollen, recommends using honey "made in Italy"

Commentary: Paste Magazine contributor Anna Brones touts documentary "Seed: The Untold Story," an exposé focused on how seeds and seed diversity are essential to our existence; claims as seed diversity is lost we are more threatened so we must take action against large corporations

Report: In 2016 GMO Network members attended EFSA scientific meetings for GMO risk assessment, developed EFSA guidance documents: the supplementary guidance for allergenicity assessment of GM plants and (2) the guidance for risk assessment of low levels of GM food

Audio: French radio news site posts podcast on anti-GMO meetings in Lorient over weekend, organizer interviewed says objective is to "coordinate action of activists from all continents"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news site reports Agriculture Minister Tabaré Aguerre says government's biotech regulations so strict it has not approved GM products that are approved in Germany, notes gene editing soon will supplant transgenic technology

News: El Salvadoran news outlet reports on Agricultural and Agroindustrial Chamber of El Salvador (CAMAGRO) President Agustín Martínez's recent statement on importance of biotech for boosting agricultural productivity, and making crops more resilient to pests and climate change, he noted resistance to the technology is based on ideology

Interview: News site for University of Costa Rica interviews Mexican UNAM scientist who warns about

"serious risks to biodiversity and health" from GM crops, claims GM model "totally unfeasible" with unfulfilled promises of alleviating hunger and decreasing pesticide use

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during the weekend monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, April 27, 2017 9 00:40 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 Cornell Alliance for Science requesting that *Politico* correct a report that one of its studies challenged American Association for the Advancement of Science statements. The American Council on Science and Health announced it was tabbed by a law firm and U.S. Right to Know as the biggest reason activist claims against the food supply did not gain more traction. The Center for Food Safety began a petition opposing changes to agricultural regulations.

- *Politico Pro* reported that Cornell Alliance for Science "poked holes" in claims by the AAAS that consuming GMOs was no more risky than consuming conventionally produced food. The report suggested that Cornell published a literature review of 12,000 abstracts that was challenged by a piece in the journal *Frontiers for Public Health.* The Alliance for Science sent *Politico* a correction notice that stated the organization has never challenged AAAS claims, that its study is currently underway and has not yet been published and that *Frontiers* is listed as a predatory pay-for-play publisher. **See more**.
- The ACSH's Hank Campbell announced an environmental law firm and USRTK's Gary Ruskin singled out the science association as the the biggest reason that $1 billion in activist spending failed to gain more ground in campaigns seeking to undermine confidence in the food supply. Campbell said this occurred despite the fact that activist groups outspent ACSH 1,000 to 1. **See more**.
- The Center for Food Safety said President Donald Trump ordered USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue do a 180-day review to eliminate "unnecessary regulations" and created a task force to eliminate policies and regulations hindering agribusiness profits, claiming "the oversight, production, and export of genetically engineered crops are high on the list." The NGO urged readers to sign a petition in protest. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health's Hank Campbell announces that ACSH has been singled out by an environmental law firm and US Right to Know's Gary Ruskin as the key reason that $1 billion in activist spending has failed to gain more traction, notes ASCH is outspent 1,000 to 1 by anti-science groups

Commentary: Competitive Enterprise Institute policy director argues new Trump task force needs to "remove barriers to innovation," including rules on biotech regulation

Commentary: Canadian anti-GMO NGO Vigilance OGM voices opposition to AquaBounty's request to Prince Edward Island government for approval of a new facility to produce GE salmon, voicing concern about negative environmental impact should GE salmon be released into the wild, claiming land-based containment still poses risks

Campaign: Just Label It email urges supporters to ask NestlÃ© to label GMOs, criticizes company for labeling GMOs on packaging globally but not in U.S.

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines recent Breitbart vs. Kellogg's incident, noting it forced some anti-GMO liberals to support the food manufacturer's decision to pull advertising from the far right-wing news outlet, with some acknowledging that the GMO argument has been "overblown"

More North America items

Africa

News: East African Vanguard reports Ugandan MPs throw Makerere University lecturer out of national biosafety bill discussion for openly describing presenter who favors modern biotech research as incompetent

News: Xinhua reports professor Caroline Thoruwa, chairperson of African Women in Science and Engineering, calls on Kenyan government to increase funding for agricultural biotechnology to help empower female scientists

More Africa items

Asia

News: Vietnamese news site questions Monsanto Dekalb director on Monsanto tribunal accusations, says Monsanto is different company than the one that manufactured Agent Orange, notes it now provides GM seeds that help farmers; activists point out it manufactures glyphosate, other pesticides

News: Pakistan Today reports international academicians and scientists attend Islamabad workshop to promote safe use of modern biotech to attain food security and defeat poverty; Pakistani Minister for Food Security and Research says safe use of modern biotechnology needed to enhance agricultural production

News: DNA India reports local seed firm appeals against Delhi High Court, rejecting its claim that Monsanto was incorrectly granted patent for Bt cotton seeds; court said if the company wants to use Monsanto's technology, it has to pay

More Asia items

Europe

News: St. Louis Business Journal reports on Molotov cocktail attack on Monsanto facility in Olmeneta, Italy, the facility is still operational but has suffered close to hundreds of thousands of Euros in damage, the attacker also sprayed a message against Monsanto's merger with Bayer

News: French news site reports Burkina Faso's Blandine Sankara to speak at International Meeting of Resistance to GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports CropLife's Jose Perdomo notes Latin America has 25 percent of world's arable land, can plant year-round, but must increase food production 60 percent by 2050; Agro-Bio director says with less space to produce more, world needs GM crops

Study: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education journal publishes Mexican university research finding 47 percent of Mexican teachers reported not having enough knowledge about GM foods while 90 percent expressed interest to learn about biotechnology; adds teachers may influence attitudes of children about GM food

Commentary: Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina biologist David Castro explains gene introduction can generate changes in expression, causing variation in concentration of proteins, fats, other metabolites, but it doesn't necessarily create a risk; notes GM products are tested for safety

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 26, 2017
Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 9:04:01 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a group opposing a plan to raise GE salmon on Canada's Prince Edward Island. Indian cotton farmers are reportedly returning to Bt cotton seed after trying out indigenous varieties.

- During a public meeting, the Council of Canadians' provincial chapter opposed AquaBounty's plan to raise GE salmon on Prince Edward Island. *The Guardian* reported there were mixed opinions at the meeting, as some believed the plan would bring "innovative jobs" to the area. According to *CBC*, the Prince Edward Island Salmon Council requested a federal risk assessment. **See more**.
- *Tribune News Service* reported Indian cotton farmers are planting Bt cotton seed once again after they found indigenous cotton varieties did not recover their input costs. Seed companies say Bt cotton seed is selling at a premium while there are no takers for indigenous or "desi" varieties. **See more**.
- A group of NGOs, the Stop Bayer/Monsanto Alliance, announced plans to protest the proposed merger at the Bayer shareholder meeting in Bonn, Germany, on Friday. The city of Bonn wants to move the demonstration from United Nations Square in front of the building to a side street. **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: Contributor for finance site Insider Monkey lists 15 advantages and disadvantages of GMOs, claims there are some health and environmental risks, but acknowledges that GMOs will be key for feeding the world's growing population, highlights potential health and environmental benefits of biotech

News: Michigan TV station reports Michigan State University extension researchers are encouraging farmers to grass-feed their cattle because it's "slightly better for the environment" and consumers are concerned that up to 90 percent of corn and soybeans are GMO despite no evidence of health risks

Commentary: Ken Roseboro of The Organic & Non-GMO Report writes for Huffington Post, believes criticism of Cargill's decision to offer Non-GMO Project verified products is based on fear that more and more consumers are rejecting GM technology, emphasizes importance of giving consumers what they want

Commentary: Kevin Folta reviews climate change episode of Bill Nye's new Netflix show, highlights previous controversy surrounding Nye's views on GMOs before changing his mind, criticizes Nye for preaching to the choir, and alienating those who are not convinced about climate change

Commentary: Doctoral student says biotech skepticism isn't anti-science, cites objections to GE salmon, notes classifying objections as "anti-science" is likely to alienate those with relevant concerns

Announcement: Center for Food Safety announces launch of Global Seed Network, a free, online peer-to-peer network for people to share rare and heirloom seeds, claims industrial ag practices such as pesticide

use harms the environment, highlights negative impact of having large companies control most of the seeds in the US

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency reports stakeholders at government plant protection workshop warn fall armyworm invasion could derail government's agriculture initiative; one expert speculates chemical solution could result in resistance problem

Commentary: Ugandan news site suggests Uganda can learn best farming practices from Brazil, which achieved food security by increasing yields using fertilizer, GM crops

News: Nigerian news site reports Federal Ministry of Science and Technology official says at March for Science event that agricultural biotechnology and genetic improvement are recognized as solution to food security; National Biotechnology Development Agency, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology involved in organizing event

More Africa items

Asia

News: Tribune News Service reports India farmers are returning to Bt cotton after experiment with desi variety fails to bear fruit; farmers say Bt cotton varieties are being sold at a premium with "no taker" for desi seeds

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies article in The Ecologist on gene editing and synbio, believes that products of new breeding techniques and synbio are GE technologies and should be regulated as such, highlights risks of off-target effects

News: Reuters reports Indian government think tank says country could prevent foreign firms from monopolizing the market for GM seeds by only allowing the sale of locally developed varieties; seen as boost for in a boost for transgenic mustard produced by Delhi group

News: New Food Magazine reports, according to Research Nester, the global GMO food market will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 3.2 percent; India and China projected to be emerging markets for GMO foods

More Asia items

Europe

News: NGOs announce plan to demonstrate at April 28 Bayer shareholder meeting in Bonn; second protest April 29 in Berlin

Commentary: French member of EU Parliament blogs he voted for resolution objecting to Commission's approval of GM maize, claims safety data on maize is incomplete or nonexistent, says Commission's choice for a firm's commercial interest against the public interest is unacceptable

Interview: Greek news site interviews Seralini, who says pesticides in food are bigger problem than pathogens, claims his book will tell how to detoxify; says pesticide and GMO problems are interrelated and wants to eliminate all pesticides from agriculture

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican businessman says next government must embrace large agribusinesses to guarantee food security; says 80 percent of Mexican scientists agree support GM food introduction; notes Mexico should not accept GM maize

Commentary: Argentine environmental NGO reports on case before country's Supreme Court examining Monsanto's claim to GM plant patent rights; court considering Monsanto claim and Amicus Curiae request by more than 80 organizations, headed by Vandana Shiva

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project publishes University of Guelph Ph.D student's assessment that Australia's sluggish adoption of GM crops has cost it hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits, along with missed chance to cut herbicide use and greenhouse gas emissions

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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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 25, 2017
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 9:03:11 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 biotechnology monitoring featured news on an updated conflict-of-interest policy from the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine following criticism of a paper on genetically modified crops and an NGO attempt to block GM maize in Africa.

- The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine will change their conflict-of-interest policy following criticism of recent papers, including one on the safety of genetically modified crops. A Tufts University professor and researcher with the advocacy group Food & Water Watch had criticized the academies for failing to disclose millions of dollars in contributions received from Monsanto, Dow and DuPont. **See more**.
- The African Centre for Biosafety announce it has filed an appeal with the High Court of South Africa seeking to overturn the government's authorization of a Monsanto GM maize variety that it claims has not been proven to be drought-tolerant. **See more**.
- The Mexican province of Quintana Roo will declare itself transgenic-free in approximately one month, according to comments by Alfredo Arellano Guillermo, head of the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA), in *La Jornada Maya*. **See more**.

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North America

News: Fortune highlights "promising" startups, including AquaBounty's GE salmon, that are using cutting-edge technology to make meat more sustainable; notes consumers will have to be convinced their food tech isn't scary

News: Bloomberg BNA reports new USDA secretary will soon help decide new GM labeling rules; administration is considering streamlining labeling regulations with nutrition facts panel requirements

News: Law360 reports New Jersey soup maker being sued for allegedly selling all-natural soups containing GMOs

News: CBC reports AquaBounty Canada facing concerns to rear GM salmon in Prince Edward Island, environmental groups claim this goes against the environmental impact plan submitted last year

News: Canadian news outlet reports AquaBounty Technologies seeking to raise GM salmon at Prince Edward Island facility, public comments accepted at information session and by contacting provincial government

News release: Friends of the Earth, other environmental groups send letter to U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee members expressing concern about how nominee to become Assistant Attorney General in Antitrust Division will decide merger between Monsanto and Bayer, claiming it will negatively impact farmers and increase prices for consumers

News: Cadillac News reports Michigan State University Extension researchers are encouraging Michigan farmers to consider raising grass-fed beef cattle in response to consumer concerns about GMOs

Commentary: Reason Foundation magazine editor blogs on failed anti-GM legislation in Oregon, highlights that county bans are little more than "political theater" even in strong liberal states due to fear of government control and heavy costs to farmers

News: Brownfield Ag News reports Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council chairman John Kelley signs agreement granting a license to Des Moines-based Schillinger Genetics to commercialize non-GMO, high oleic soybeans

Event: Food Revolution Summit (April 29-May 7) to feature speakers that include Vandana Shiva, Mark Hyman, Michael Greger, Neal Barnard, Nathan Runkle; promotional materials claim pesticides, hormones, antibiotics, GMOs and toxic, untested chemicals spreading like a virus through the food supply

Commentary: National Chicken Council notes animals that eat GMO feed don't become a GMO, nor is there a food safety risk when consuming animal ag products raised with GMO food ingredients; also explains how GMOs are used in chicken industry today

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Natural Blaze editor Heather Callaghan argues Burkina Faso took a big risk by gambling on Monsanto's GM cotton, is now reverting back to the non-GMO variety; industry official estimated output rising by as much as 20 percent

News: The Nation reports Nigerian environmental group HOMEF asks government to review act that established National Biosafety Management Agency, claiming agency lacks mandatory duties to perform its stewardship role and ensure GMOs do not harm humans, animal health and environment

Commentary: African Centre for Biosafety posts objection to commercial release of Monsanto's drought-resistant GM maize varieties in South Africa, says there's a lack of data backing applicant's claim variety shows improvements to yield under drought stress

Commentary: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, in open letter, tells African Regional Intellectual Property Organization that development of Arusha Protocol favors foreign entities, ignores civil society and farmer input from ARIPO region; asks group to improve cooperation and communication

Commentary: BIO president Jim Greenwood's Earth Day column argues it makes no sense to believe scientists on climate change while simultaneously rejecting the overwhelming consensus on GMO food safety; calls it a disservice to starving people around the world

News: Rwandan news source reports agricultural experts say African nations should allocate more funds to ag science, research and technology to bridge crop production gap and ensure food security

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity announces it has lodged an appeal with High Court of South Africa to overturn government agency decisions to approve commercialization of Monsanto's GM drought tolerant maize variety, argues that Monsanto's claims of drought tolerance have not been scientifically proven

Commentary: Nigerian environmental news source posts remarks by Health of Mother Earth Foundation director at media training event, he says food sovereignty means people have right to food produced via ecologically sound and sustainable methods; claims Nigeria's biosafety law favors biotech and is against public interest

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: MintPress News says "symbolic" Tribunal finds Monsanto violates global food, health and environmental rights; notes Monsanto's business model for dissemination of its biotech products has created untold suffering around world, particularly in India

Study: Current Opinion in Biotechnology publishes investigation by Cornell University researchers that found iron-biofortified crops to be efficient means of overcoming iron deficiency in individuals tested in Africa, Asia

News: Vietnam News Agency reports, following the release of the 'Monsanto Files,' parliamentarians from the Party of European Socialists announce plan to request commission of inquiry on Monsanto

More Asia items

Europe

Event: Polish social advocacy NGO hosts "Food labeling GMO-free Poland - challenges and prospects" debate April 27 in Warsaw; participants will discuss issues of law governing labeling of non-GMO foods, benefits and challenges for food and feed manufacturers, farmers and consumers

Commentary: U.S. Soybean Export Council notes EuropaBio green biotechnology director spoke at Polish Grain & Feed Chamber event on benefits of biotech crops, highlighting the hypocrisy at EU and member state levels that causes commercial biotech pipelines to focus outside of Europe; notes effort to delay Polish GM ban

Commentary: Science journalist Hidde Boersma writes for Belgian news outlet, promoting "Ecomodernism," argues that biotech will be necessary to produce enough food using less land, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, highlights exciting developments in biotech, including CRISPR

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports National Corn Product System Committee head asks agriculture ministry to stop importing maize, arguing it benefits a few companies to the detriment of producers and millions of consumers; claims Mexico could have food sovereignty with maize in no more than 10 years

Commentary: Mexican human rights NGO says fast-tracking approval of General Biodiversity Law will privatize country's genetic resources, severely affecting principle of self-determination, constitutional rights of indigenous and peasant people

Commentary: Brazilian natural news site contributor warns about health and environmental risks of GMOs and their associated pesticides, highlights research by Anthony Samsel and Stephanie Seneff, promotes new book entitled "Transgenic Crops - Risks and Uncertainties," which examines 750 studies on GMO risks

News: La Jornada Maya reports Mexican state of Quintana Roo will declare itself GMO-free in one month; farmers worry honey contaminated by GM crops will hurt their exports to Europe

News: Uruguayan news site reports Native Seed Network and Friends of the Earth say regulated coexistence between native and GM maize isn't possible; group concerned local varieties disappearing, pushed out by GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments during today's monitoring of Oceania. Please click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 24, 2017
Date: Monday, April 24, 2017 9 03:53 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

Today's biotechnology monitoring highlights included developments in a class-action lawsuit over Syngenta's Viptera corn, news on the potential time from for the close of ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta and a report about cotton production in Burkina Faso after growers moved away from a genetically modified variety.

- The first of many lawsuits demanding Syngenta cover damages resulting from marketing its Viptera corn prior to China import approval began today in Minneapolis. Following a report from the *Associated Press* this weekend, *Bloomberg* had an in-depth piece today highlighting how lawsuits are taking place as ChemChina progresses in its acquisition of Syngenta, pointing out that China may end up owning the seeds it rejected. **See more** Separately, as part of the company's first quarter earnings announcement, Syngenta CEO Erik Fyrwald said he expects the merger with ChemChina to close next month. **See more**.
- *Bloomberg* reported that Burkina Faso cotton growers are seeing outputs rising by 20 percent now that they have returned to conventional seeds and away from Monsanto's Bt cotton. The U.K. NGO GMWatch amplified the piece, claiming Burkina Faso's transition should be a lesson to other countries considering GM cotton. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Northwestern student newspaper columnist claims March for Science misrepresented science, treating it as a politicized entity, uses safety of GM foods and environmentalists' ongoing fight against them as an example

News: Christian news service reports Competitive Enterprise Institute senior fellow claims Monsanto Tribunal a "media stunt" not based in science, noting GM foods are safe and more similar technologies are needed

Commentary: Hoosier Ag Today writer reflects on Earth Day, suggests "environmentally friendly advances in science and technology" such as biotech crops are ignored, media coverage is "distorted and one-sided"

News: U.S. agriculture news outlet reports American Chamber of Commerce wants faster response time from Chinese government for approvals of GM crops; currently takes six years for approvals

News: Politico Pro reports Trump administration considering tying together GMO labeling disclosure regulation with Nutrition Facts update; administration official notes implementation would take years, saving food manufacturers money

More North America items

Africa

News: The Science Times reports crop-killing armyworms have spread from Western Africa to Rwanda and Kenya, with Ugandan crop damage reaching an estimated $193M; experts say the pests must be sprayed by Belt concentration, a pesticide that is unaffordable for most farmers

Commentary: Ugandan newspaper recommends passing biotechnology bill before dealing with armyworm infestation; notes bill would allow farmers to grow crops without fear of damage from microscopic pests

Commentary: German radio network correspondent writing in Portuguese newspaper suggests independent experts assess environmental effects of GMO corn introduced by Chinese on Sao Tome and Principe, suggests health of the residents could be at risk

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports on the positive benefits biofortification could have to help those with micronutrient deficiencies; iron, zinc and vitamin A are primary focus of biofortification efforts

Commentary: CGIAR reports review of biofortification efficacy trials found test subjects in Asia, Africa showed significant improvement in iron status after consuming iron-biofortified crops

News release: Convention on Biological Diversity site notes Filipino Department of Agriculture Biotech working to strengthen participation of five government departments involved in biosafety regulation of GMOs; recently conducted biotechnology training on basic tools for crop, animal improvement

News: Bangladesh newspaper reports Bangladeshi geneticist urges scientists at conference on agricultural biotechnology for food security to preserve indigenous rice varieties by cultivating them along with developed varieties; conference held by Cornell Alliance for Science in conjunction with global March for Science

News: Indian news site reports farmers and civil society groups from around Asia call for end to Golden Rice field trials at recent Manila gathering; opponents worry about cross-contamination, loss of genetic purity, health concerns

Commentary: Sri Lankan news site says Monsanto Tribunal finds company guilty of ecocide, crimes against humanity; adds Tribunal claims Monsanto guilty of manipulation, misrepresenting science, discrediting independent scientific research

News: The Times of India reports Odisha state agriculture minister announces government working on implementing organic farming policy in 15 districts in first phase; speaking at event for Navdanya-published book, minister claims conventional farming has health hazards and has led to crop loss; Vandana Shiva promotes book as attempt to spread organic farming

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on successful application of organic biotech in rice cultivation, reducing pesticide inputs, Nguyen Tho of Vietnam Plant Protection Association notes benefits of organic biotech include improved soil health and biodiversity

News: Indo-Asian News Service profiles agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan; hailed as Green Revolution mentor, he says GM technology will soon become obsolete with advent of nano-technology and other solutions; adds country's public policy for GM crops lagging

News: United Arab Emirates news outlet reports on government plans to limit imports of GMOs, with new requirements for testing to ensure safety for human consumption

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies EU Food Policy report that German Green MEP Martin Hausling launched "blistering attack" against EFSA, saying "stop pretending you are an independent institution";

GMWatch adds EFSA accused of bias and corruption, and should not rely on industry-sponsored studies

News release: Anti-GM NGO Testbiotech announces release of report on "risks and problems" with new GE technologies like CRISPR, including biodiversity impact and need for "comprehensive regulation"

News release: French peasant seed network gives update on lawsuit other peasant organizations asking French Council of State to ban cultivation of herbicide-resistant GM crops, regulate gene-edited products currently marketed as conventional varieties without health and environmental assessment, labeling or monitoring

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO promotes Réseau Semences Paysannes (Peasant Seeds Network) short film informing consumers about gene-edited food products, denounces attempts to avoid regulation

Commentary: French NGO inf'OGM claims EU texts on GMOs are complex, discouraging Europeans from reading them, despite public opposition to GMOs and desire for information

Interview: Romanian news outlet interviews one of the local March for Science organizers, Mihai Miclaus, who believes lack of effective communication is responsible for consumers' misunderstanding of GMOs, pointing to common confusion about hybrids and perceived risks

News: Times of Malta reports seminar on safeguarding traditional strains of seeds from fruits, vegetables and herbs concludes saving local seeds may hold key for Malta's food crop survival; adds genetic diversity declined when agribusiness began breeding crops identical in size and color

Commentary: French lawyer examines legal basis, including use of precautionary principle, for European Commission member states to adopt emergency measures and bans for authorized GM food and feed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: La Prensa reports official with Ministry of Rural Development and Equity for Communities affirms Mexico City government's support for native corn; adds city's constitution calls for prevention of harmful GE products while favoring development of organic agriculture

Interview: Mexican news outlet interviews University of Veracruz coordinator for sustainability who supports biosafety law that would require foods with GMOs to be labeled; notes some claim transgenic foods can cause health issues, including cancer

News release: Brazil's Embrapa to showcase biofortification technologies at 1st Congress of Food and Nutrition in Piauí April 26-28, including biofortified cowpea and sweet potato; notes researcher will chair conference about Brazil's food biofortification program

News: Mexican news site reports seed fair observes 15 years of saving, sharing seeds to preserve native crops; seed collective member calls on Yucatan's Mayan communities to continue resistance activities against GM soybeans

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Administrative Council of Tax Appeals' (Carf) ruling that Dow's purchase of Brazilian company Agromen is irregular, as it enabled Dow to increase its market share in GM maize while paying less taxes

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australia-based agronomist Tran Bac Hai writes for Vietnamese news outlet, examining debate on GMO safety, summarizes regulations in Australia, highlights legal dispute over cross-contamination, calls for transparency and strict regulations of GMOs in Vietnam, believes long-term health impacts are unknown

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 24, 2017
Date: Monday, April 24, 2017 4 00:57 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

When the European Commission's Joint Research Centre reviewed the impact of the 2013 neonic restrictions, it found that farmers were negatively impacted and bees - which activists claimed would be protected by the new regulations - had not benefited. The findings were secreted away as the commission instead drafted a proposal to expand and extend the neonic ban, but U.K. House of Lords member Maft Ridley detailed the report in his column for The Times last week. Politico later highlighted it as the lead item in its daily agriculture news roundup.

Other highlights of this week's newslefter include a Genetic Literacy Project piece written by three toxicologists who believe the International Agency for Research on Cancer's monograph program needs to either be brought into the 21st century or discontinued, an appeal from Mark Lynas for Tanzania to stop burning GM corn that could be used to feed the hungry and Julianna LeMieux writing for the American Council on Science and Health about a lawsuit asking Los Angeles public schools to stop serving processed meat.

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In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Food Revolution Network

The Food Revolution Network is a for-profit entity run by John and Ocean Robbins promoting self-help, diet and lifestyle products that condemn GMOs, pesticides and other non-organic foods and products.

The Robbins' venture uses organic and alternative health

Stories Worth Sharing

Matt Ridley: Joint Research Centre findings show EU neonics restrictions are "disastrously counterproductive"

Toxicologists: International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph program should be modernized or abolished

Kavin Senapathy: Monsanto tribunal a "fake trial that distracted from real problems" such as food security

Mark Lynas: "Absurd' for Tanzania to burn GM corn while its people starve

Julianna LeMieux: Los Angeles school lunch lawsuit citing IARC is about "ridiculous vegetarian agenda," not keeping kids healthy

Andrew Porterfield: If results of new breeding techniques can't be detected, should they be regulated as GMOs?

Terry Daynard: Ontario bee health review a reminder of importance of Varroa mites, but views on neonics disappoint

International Food Information Council: Chlorpyrifos subjected to strict

marketing partners to promote online lectures called "empowerment" packages they sell and then enlist these new empowered members to sell to their friends and family.

According to the Robbins, avoiding GMOs and pesticides will save you and the world. Each year, they host an annual Food Evolution Summit - the 2017 event launches on Saturday and runs through May 7. This year's featured speakers include Vandana Shiva, Mark Hyman and a cast of other health and food gurus promoting their wares.

CLICK HERE to learn more about the Food Revolution Network.

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safety standards based on "vigorous research"

Chicago Council: U.S. should prioritize research in developing agricultural technology, supporting innovation

Real Agriculture: Number of bee colonies in Canada at record high after agriculture industry solved neonic dust issue

Monsanto CTO Robb Fraley: Deceptive, predatory publishing is the fake news of the science world

Myles Power: Consumers' lack of knowledge about biotechnology has created ingrained societal "fear and distrust" in GMOs

Acton Institute: Western GMOs may help improve living standards in Cuba

California dietitian: Environmental Working Group's "Dirty Dozen" list largely discredited by scientific community

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Reports: Dow asked Trump administration to set aside studies on three organophosphate pesticides due to "fundamental scientific unsoundness"

U.S. Senate committee plans Wednesday hearing to review legal basis for Waters of the United States rule

NGO-backed tribunal releases verdict claiming Monsanto violates human rights

French National Consumer Institute magazine releases study finding EDCs, pesticides in hair samples from children

GMOs, pollinators draw attention of activists during March for Science

Calendar highlights

April 25	April 27-28	April 27
Winona LaDuke lecture at New York University on food sovereignty	19th International Conference on Regenerative Agriculture and Agroecological Restoration	Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return "Superbugs & Super Risks" forum
April 28-30	**April 28-29**	**April 29**
International Meetings of the Resistance to GMOs	Beyond Pesticides' National Pesticide Forum: "Healthy Hives, Healthy Lives, Healthy Land"	World Veterinary Day: "Antimicrobial Resistance - From Awareness to Action" theme

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 21-23, 2017
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2017 10:02:28 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 worldwide coverage of March for Science and Earth Day events.

- International media reported on March for Science events in cities in the U.S. and around the world. A Chicago Sun-Times columnist claimed politicizing the march devalued the message. A blogger wrote that the event focused more on social justice than science while blogger Joan Conrow argued the University of Hawaii gave in to "anti-science bullies" by requesting March for Science speakers to refrain from controversial topics. **See more**.
- Media praised the new Netflix series, "Bill Nye Saves the World," which focuses on GMOs in one episode during its first season, which debuted Friday. Vox called Nye the "unapologetically political" science guy and referred to a segment featuring Monsanto's Robert Fraley as "a major misstep." **See more**.
- An Australian farming news site reported that China's lack of approval of Monsanto's new Bollgard 3 cotton seed varieties could cost the country's export sector hundreds of millions of dollars. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Brooke Borel writes for Slate as part of its synbio series, examines outdatedness of current biotech regulatory framework, highlights recent draft guidances published by USDA and FDA, worries that Trump administration will either do nothing or eliminate regulations altogether, emphasizes importance of agencies updating laws

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizing International Monsanto Tribunal's verdict, noting it was a fake trial that distracts from real issues, noting farmers in Africa are being denied valuable disease-resistant and drought-tolerant technologies due to continued anti-GMO activism, which stifles innovation

Commentary: GMO Free Pennsylvania issues rebuttal to Val Giddings' recent pro-biotech piece in Lancaster Farming, argues that GMOs are not sustainable or necessary to feed the world, points to growing problem of herbicide-resistant weeds, as well as claims about glyphosate's carcinogenicity

Commentary: Kevin Folta describes renewed attacks on his reputation regarding funding from Monsanto, launched by US Right to Know's Gary Ruskin, in response to Folta's Twitter posts about an educational outreach program with students from his lab, Folta reemphasizes importance of science communication in spite of hate and ignorance

Commentary: Moms Across America leader blames biotech farming, pesticides for environmental pollution, landclimate change

Commentary: Executive Director of Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC), Mahaletchumy Arujanan, writes for Genetic Literacy Project, laments fact that organic movement decries biotech

industry funded science while they receive funding from organic industry, shares personal challenges with science communication in Malaysia

Commentary: Learn Liberty contributors Henry I. Miller, Jeff Stier slam Earth Day organizers for distorting science to advance cynical agendas; lament that many stumping for the event share opposition to environment-friendly advances in science and technology, such as ag biotechnology, fracking, nuclear power

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Katherine Chaweza, a Cornell Alliance for Science Fellow and communication and outreach coordinator for Malawi's Programme for Biosafety Systems, highlights Malawi's progress towards GM crop commercialization, with cotton, cowpea and banana varieties in field trials, points to Malawi's fully functional biosafety framework

Commentary: Public Radio International reports on March for Science, highlights event coordinator Kishore Hari's surprise at the widespread international interest, Nkechi Isaac of Nigeria Alliance for Science noted importance of science for food security, highlighting need for GMOs in Nigeria

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Bangladesh policy research institute questions a recent CropLife International article on Bt eggplant, claims there were "massive failures" between first and second round plantings

Commentary: Greenpeace campaigners emphasize that while Monsanto tribunal is nonbinding, its recommendations come from "real and independent judges;" notes people's movement grows to 'protect citizens and the environment from toxic pesticides'

Commentary: Journalist on Indonesian news site claims eating organic is "much healthier than conventional foods", says GE plants "are known to lower the immune system"; cites dangers of CLA, antibiotics and chemical fertilzers

News: Chinese news outlet reports on Xinjiang Alashankou Inspection and Quarantine Bureau's plans to increase inspections to prevent illegal access to GM seeds, following concerns about illegal GM soybean cultivation

Commentary: Turkish news site contributor says country's seed industry is under control of five biotech giants thanks to government's "absolute submission policies"; health and environmental consequences cited

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French blogger amplifies documents published by anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM regarding "hidden GMOs" produced via mutagenesis, highlighting claims that they violate the precautionary principle, threatening human health and the environment

Commentary: EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, writes for Portuguese news outlet, announcing his participation in March for Science, he briefly notes current debate on GMOs, emphasizes importance of communicating success of science in Europe

Commentary: GMWatch reports Monsanto tribunal finds, far from contributing to food security, Monsanto "negatively affected food availability;" says "most damning" conclusion is the world can feed itself using agroecology

News: Food Chemical News reports FDA intends to ask the Ninth Circuit to reverse a lower court ruling

requiring it to provide plaintiffs with additional materials related its legal dispute with groups who are challenging its approval of AquaBounty GE salmon

More Europe items

Latin America

Audio: Global Justice Ecology Project's Anne Petermann speaks on KPFK radio's Sojourner Truth show, recounting her recent visit to Chile as part of Campaign to STOP GE Trees, she claims tree plantations damage the environment, worries that Chile has potential to become a major exporter of GE trees

News: Brazilian news agency reports on recent study in Scientific Reports which identifies various sugarcane genes that are targeted by the chemical ripener etefon, which project coordinator Marcelo Menossi notes may be potential targets for future GE applications to develop sugarcane varieties that accumulate more sugar

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Federated Farmers encourages its members to join March for Science events in New Zealand, group's national president says "we seem to follow the scientific consensus on climate change but ignore it on genetic modification"

News: Australian news outlet reports on potential export issue for Monsanto Australia's stacked trait Bollgard 3 GM cotton variety, which International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) indicates has not yet received Chinese approval, Monsanto states the issue is due to Chinese "shipping-related import documentation"

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 *Politico* review of Senate hearings showing U.S. Agriculture Secretary nominee Sonny Perdue's stance on biotech and organic food. The Stop Golden Rice Network called on the Filipino government to disallow further field tests on Golden Rice.

- *Politico* reported that when Sen. Chuck Grassley asked during Senate hearings about other countries' delays in approving GM crops, Perdue said he will "insist that USDA be more aggressive in supporting advancements in biotech." The new agriculture secretary also said he wants the USDA to continue promoting organic and local food. **See more**.
- NGOs that make up the Stop Golden Rice Network issued a news release calling on the Filipino government to disapprove requests from the International Rice Research Institute for additional field research on Golden Rice. The release claims Golden Rice threatens "the lives and livelihood of Asian farmers." **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines debate over whether or not products of gene editing should be regulated as GMOs, notes that while changes made via gene editing are detectable, they are indistinguishable from changes made via mutagenesis, chemically introduced changes, or conventional breeding

Campaign: Center for Food Safety email notes Health Canada recently approved GM apple, potato and salmon yet still has no laws in place to label modified foods; asks readers to sign petition supporting legislation set for debate (May 5) in the House of Commons that calls for mandatory labeling of GMO foods

Commentary: Monsanto's Robb Fraley writes for Medium, laments rise in "predatory journals," equates deceptive publishing to "fake news," highlights increased likelihood that non-peer-reviewed articles will gain media coverage, thus influencing public opinion, praises Gates Foundation's open access efforts

Commentary: Environmental attorney Carol Dansereau writes in CounterPunch magazine claiming "assault on science is nothing new;" highlights Syngenta "smear campaign" against Tyrone Hayes for research linking atrazine to reproductive abnormalities in frogs; claims companies block GM seed research

Commentary: Vegan GMO director Jayson Merkley tells readers who see veganism as a movement for "reasoned justice" that they need to attend March for Science; cautions that the movement cannot fall victim to PR campaigns aimed at manufacturing false scientific controversies, including myths about GMO safety

News: Western Farm Press editor reports recent Farm Bureau event included farmer Jason Perry of Perry

Farms telling attendees Roundup Ready GMO corn is "a lot better for the environment" as there are fewer pesticides required and the improved drought-tolerant plants require less water

More North America items

Africa

News: Agence France-Presse reports on spread of fall armyworm to Rwanda, amplifying FAO claims regarding pest's threat to food security in region

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Mark Lynas writes for magazine, notes Tanzania burns GM corn despite drought, starvation, fact that scientists agree the crop is perfectly healthy; says the absurdity "is what happens when science is ignored."

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Stop Golden Rice! Network calls for rejection of field trial applications for golden rice in the Philippines, with recent protests during Earth Day celebrations, claiming golden rice threatens local rice industry, food security, farmer livelihoods and environmental health

News: Russia Today reports on potential for ChemChina-Syngenta merger to make China a leading GMO producer, as it will gain availability of valuable seed technology to feed its growing population, notes China currently relies heavily on soybean and corn imports

News: The Times of India reports Vandana Shiva, Navdanya plan to develop Jai Prakash University as "green campus," will include developing seed bank at the university, adding agroscience classes

News: Vietnamese news service reports Monsanto tribunal claims company ruined Vietnam's environment, was complicit in war crimes

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Asian Age, invokes Ghandi's protest against East India Company in promoting her "satyagraha yatra," a protest for a "suicide-, hunger-, disease-free" India

News: Press Trust of India reports Delhi-based NGO Navdanya to develop community seed banks in West Bengal as part of "Organic India" campaign to save, breed and multiply native seeds and prevent bio-piracy of indigenous seeds and plants

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Cert ID Europe sustainability expert Andy Green tells Food Navigator demand for non-GMO feed is increasing in the U.S. and will continue to do so; notes global non-GMO certification leader improving its platform to reduce costs; notes feed industry concerns about climate change

News: Russia Today reports on potential for ChemChina-Syngenta merger to make China a leading GMO producer, as it will gain availability of valuable seed technology to feed its growing population, notes China currently relies heavily on soybean and corn imports

More Europe items

Latin America

Campaign: Environmental NGO reports on Facebook their legal appeal to suspend Monsanto's Intacta soy reaches Argentina's Supreme Court; NGO bases case on precautionary principle, claiming government failed to adequately evaluate health and environmental risks

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro warns in Mexican news outlet that proposed biodiversity law "legalizes looting" of country's genetic resources through privatization; Greenpeace calls proposal

"monster ... which if approved will be a step back in conservation of biodiversity"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports FoodWatch to submit petition requesting federal legislators to protect non-GMO farms from GM contamination

Commentary: Referencing the recent legal opinion of the nonbinding people's tribunal in The Hague, MADGE Australia says International law needs to be expanded to make corporations like Monsanto accountable for their actions

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 additional coverage of the Monsanto tribunal. Florida Keys officials began testing GM mosquitoes to control mosquito populations carrying Zika and other viruses. In Italy, a Monsanto building was set on fire by activists, and there was an update on the destruction of a rapeseed fields in France.

- There was continuing coverage of and commentary on the NGO-run Monsanto tribunal. Latin American coverage included an interview with Argentine judge Eleonora Lamm, who served on the tribunal's panel. Vandana Shiva claimed the judgment "shows this is a criminal company." Other anti-biotech responses came from Greenpeace, Corporate Europe Observatory, MADGE and former French environmental minister Corinne Lepage. *Le Monde* reported a Monsanto spokesman said the anti-biotech body has no legal standing and reached a "predetermined verdict" by denying scientific evidence and ignoring court decisions. **See more**.
- The Associated Press reported the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District released 20,000 GM mosquitoes to help reduce mosquito populations to help control Zika and other viruses. The test will last three months with releases twice a week. **See more**.
- Italian news sites reported arsonists used Molotov cocktails to damage a Monsanto building in Olmeneta, Italy. Meanwhile, a French news site reported that the Volunteer Reapers who destroyed a BASF field of rapeseed crops bred using mutagenesis also damaged a neighboring field owned by KWS France. Company officials said their crop was neither genetically modified nor mutagenic. **See more**.

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North America

News: Agri-Pulse reports ag industry stakeholders undecided on how to interpret current regulatory guidelines for gene-editing products, claims regulation is behind the technology and unsure if FDA approval even needed

Commentary: DTN's Washington Insider highlights potential of CRISPR to solve several agricultural challenges, such as Florida's struggle to combat citrus greening, examines current regulatory debate, believes the debate will be over if science can produce products that consumers can't live without

News: Bloomberg BNA reports APHIS supports permit application for field trials of GE moth, organic farming advocates claim dead moth larvae could cause environmental and health issues

Campaign: Children's March for Humanity announces upcoming march in Washington, D.C. on June 17, 2017, with sister marches in other cities, to fight to protect children from negative health impacts of toxic chemicals in our food, water, air, medicine, and vaccines, the event will feature anti-glyphosate speakers, and is seeking speakers on GMOs

News: Capital Press reports Oregon bill allowing biotech patent-holders to be sued for "unwanted GMO presence" survives crucial legislative deadline; Center for Food Safety legal fellow calls move "good news," policy director with Oregonians for Food and Shelter disappointed "poorly-written" legislation is

moving forward

Commentary: OFW Law agriculture and food security specialist Marshall Matz writes for Agri-Pulse, examining reasons why people are not outraged over ongoing famine in developing nations, believes people are disconnected from agriculture and have never faced true hunger, notes anti-biotech sentiment also hinders progress

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ugandan news source publishes piece by Nigerian farmer warning of dire consequences of potential increase in US pesticide use under EPA head Scott Pruitt, cites recent UN report suggesting pesticides don't help feed world, fatally poison 250,000 annually

News: Rwandan news source reports Rwanda Defence Forces and the National Police are making joint effort to help contain fall armyworm, save crops using multiple methods, including use of profenofos and cypermethrin; Agriculture Board says outbreak could lead to total loss of crop yields for maize, wheat, rice and sorghum

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports Vandana Shiva used Monsanto Tribunal opinion to declare GM mustard in India doesn't increase yield and "stands no chance" of acceptance, claims decision will embolden other groups to speak out against Monsanto

News: Quartz reports China to be a global leader in GM food once merger between ChemChina and Syngenta completed, Chinese government continuing to invest more in GM crops despite public skepticism

News: Press Trust of India reports on Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) decision to transfer responsibility of evaluating and approving GM Bt cotton to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), made during recent GEAC meeting under the Environment Ministry

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Former French member of European Parliament writes Huffington Post column about Monsanto Tribunal opinion focusing on divide between human rights law and responsibility of multinational corporations, advocates for UN adoption of Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mankind

News: French TV news site reports KWS France field impacted by Volunteer Reapers' destruction of rapeseed fields, say their crop was not GM nor modified by mutagenesis

News: European news sites report Monsanto tribunal judges say company guilty of human rights abuses, "ecocide," war crimes; Monsanto spokesman notes anti-biotech body has no legal standing, reached "predetermined verdict" by denying scientific evidence, ignoring court decisions

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Chilean news site reports Monsanto's GM seed plant nears approval by authorities

News: Argentine news site reports Argentine judge served on Monsanto tribunal that gave opinion Monsanto is guilty of non-crime of "ecocide," says opinion regarding glyphosate could impact the country

News: Reuters reports 93.4 percent of Brazil's total planted area last season was planted with soybeans,

corn and GM cotton, according to consultancy Céleres, with 49 million hectares of those three products being GM, Céleres believes more significant changes in transgenic crop adoption may be possible only for cotton going forward

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: The Australian arts writer takes issue with Monsanto's involvement in Bill Nye's Netflix show, claims lack of anti-GM voice is "irresponsible" and questions who funded the show

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 release of the verdict resulting from the Monsanto "tribunal" held by environmental NGOs last October. There was also limited coverage of the debut of the documentary "SEED: The Untold Story."

Consolidated highlights include:

- The Monsanto "tribunal" run by NGOs released its verdict today concluding that Monsanto's actions violate human rights to a healthy environment, food, health and public information, adding that Monsanto would be found guilty if ecocide was a formally recognized crime under international law. The panel voiced concerns that Monsanto's development of genetically modified crops resistant to herbicides increased use of glyphosate, a herbicide considered carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The verdict prompted coverage from European media outlets including *Agence France-Presse* and received promotion from activist groups including Inf'OGM, Organic Consumers Association, Sustainable Pulse, Moms Across America and GMWatch. Monsanto issued a statement noting the tribunal's verdict was a "non-legal opinion" issued by anti-agricultural technology and anti-Monsanto critics. **See more**
- There was limited media reaction to the Monday night airing of "SEED: The Untold Story" on the Public Broadcasting System show "Independent Lens." The Los Angeles-area progressive news site *Truthdig* provided a review of the documentary, and the non-fiction film industry magazine *Realscreen* reported that the filmmakers called it "by far the most expensive film they've made," with funding from Whole Foods Market and two crowdfunding campaigns. **See more**.
- Commentary on the upcoming March for Science included pieces from Mark Lynas in The Guardian and a Cornell Alliance for Science piece that highlighted Bt brinjal and water-efficient maize. The Center for Food Safety also noted its plans to "speak out against the suppression of science." **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Real Agriculture contributor recounts recent discussion with Kevin Folta about challenge of overcoming skewed perceptions of risk in food and drink, highlighting Folta's example of Wild Turkey's advertisement that their whiskey is non-GMO, noting that alcohol is a known carcinogen while GMOs are perfectly safe

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow Mark Lynas writes op-ed in The Guardian to provide support for global March for Science, admits despair at science denialists involved with climate sceptic, anti-vaccine and anti-GMO movements

Commentary: Food Safety News reports several issues will press new USDA head Gov. Sonny Perdue after confirmation, including making federal GMO food labeling law reality; adds Purdue will have to fill in details on law that played out state-by-state for several years

News release: Organic Consumers Association announces Monsanto Tribunal judges issue opinion finding that Monsanto is in violation of basic human rights to a healthy environment, to food and to health, OCA believes the findings will lead to more liability cases against Monsanto and similar companies

Commentary: AltHealthWORKS founder Nick Meyer warns scientists are experimenting with new varieties of seedless gene edited fruits that will not require bee pollination; says lack of proper regulation of gene-edited foods could open door for 'silent takeover' and genetic modification of our food supply

Commentary: True Activist contributor Amelia Kinney highlights Oregon bill that would allow farmers to take legal action if their crops are contaminated by GMOs; notes plaintiffs stand to receive compensation up to three times amount of damages

More North America items

Africa

News: Local news source reports Biotechnology Society of Nigeria president Benjamin Ubi asserts biotech key to country's sustainable agricultural production, saying benefits 'cannot be over emphasized'

News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana announces support for International Day of Peasants' Struggle, calls for return to sustainable agriculture models, urges Parliament to publish consultations on Plant Breeders Bill

Commentary: Op-ed in Kenya's Daily Nation by public policy analyst warns drought, armyworm infestation causing "bigger national food crunch than projected," recommends Kenya adapt more proactive approach to food security, broaden GMO tolerances and consider drought- and pest-resistant GM crops

News release: Imperial College London announces it is developing synthetic biology in East Africa with aim to impact food security, industry, health and environment; head of college's Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation says region has "opportunity to move towards a far bigger bioeconomy" and "not just focus on agriculture"

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports GEAC agrees to transfer evaluation, management, approval and monitoring of Bt cotton to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in move to more robust monitoring regime; notes GEAC remains non-committal on timeframe for final decision on commercial release of GMO Mustard

Commentary: Vietnamese news site reports scientist believes GM foods can benefit densely populated countries, increase productivity and economic efficiency; adds research and introduction of GM food in Vietnam is slow, and consumers are afraid

Commentary: India IP law firm summarizes key 2016 patent developments, including seed companies refusing to pay royalties on Monsanto's Bt cotton and ensuing legal ramifications

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor examines GMO debate from a vegetarian perspective, argues that GMOs are unnatural, but that no adverse health effects have been demonstrated after many years of use, highlights concerns about adverse effects on animals

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Retraction Watch reports paper by researcher Federico Infascelli, who has questioned the safety of GMOs, flagged after receiving concerns there were issues with some images; last year, he was formally reprimanded by the University of Naples for including manipulated data in three papers

Report: Monsanto Tribunal judges release verdict, conclude company activities violate human rights to a healthy environment, food, health, open research

News release: Monsanto responds to NGOs' tribunal verdict, noting it is a "non-legal opinion" issued by anti-agriculture technology and anti-Monsanto critics; reaffirms commitment to helping solve food security issues

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM amplifies Monsanto Tribunal advisory opinion on company's alleged infringement of environmental and human health, claims ecocide should be established in international law

Commentary: French news outlet contributor accuses EU of imposing GM maize on France, criticizes process which allows the EU Commission to permit GMOs at the EU level in spite of a majority of countries and MEPs being opposed, as well as the majority of EU citizens

Audio: French science podcast discusses presidential candidates' platforms to "preserve the health of French people;" notes Jean Luc Mélenchon, Benoit Hamon advocate for ban of GMOs, pesticides, EDCs; Emmanuel Macron calls for more GMO research

More Europe items

Latin America

Event: Global Justice Ecology Project highlights U.S. tour (April 20-May 23) by two Honduran cultural workers using music and storytelling to amplify message of Berta Caceres that agribusiness developments are "death for the population"

News: Mexican news site reports research professor believes Mexico maize production declining due to contamination from transgenic varieties; he urges organic agriculture and preservation of native seeds as solution

Interview: Argentinian news outlet interviews Eleonora Lamm, one of the judges for the International Monsanto Tribunal; she recounts hearing testimony about negative impact of GMOs and pesticides on the environment, damage to Mexican beekeepers' livelihoods, and negative health impacts of glyphosate, especially in Argentina

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mennonite community's request for permission to continue cultivating GM cotton in Janos, arguing that it is intended for textile use only, and that it reduces the number of herbicide applications

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Australian pro-GMO partnership, GMOonly, launches first line of pro-GMO cotton T-shirts, containing messages about benefits of GM technologies, plans to launch more GMOonly products, including foods, home accessories and jewelry

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 debut of an NGO-backed documentary, "SEED: The Untold Story," on public television stations in the United States. The activist group La Via Campesina marked its annual International Day of Peasant Struggle by promoting a campaign asking a United Nations working group to ensure peasants access to land and seeds.

Consolidated highlights include:

- PBS planned to air "SEED: The Untold Story" on Monday night during its "Independent Lens" program. The documentary features interviews with Indian activist Vandana Shiva, Center for Food Safety founder Andrew Kimbrell, scientist Jane Goodall and others who claim agribusinesses have greatly reduced seed diversity around the world. It is set to debut in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand later this week. **See more**.
- La Via Campesina promoted the International Day of Peasants' Struggle, noting it has planned demonstrations, public debates and festivals ahead of a May 4 meeting of the UN Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group. **See more**.

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North America

News: Agribusiness news outlet reports U.S. federal judge denied nationwide class-action suit against Syngenta over GMO corn but also denied Syngenta's request to prohibit punitive damages; also highlights EPA reassurance it will meet deadline for pesticide registration decisions

Commentary: Center for Science in the Public Interest's biotechnology director asserts NAS finds GE foods don't pose higher health risk than non-GE; adds some companies market food products as non-GMO to create nonexistent distinction and give them competitive advantage, sometimes at premium price

Commentary: Kauai Eclectic blogger Joan Conrow comments on topics including March for Science demonstrators and the irony of anti-GM activist groups advocating for scientists to be heard, highlights anti-GM groups being funded by organic industry

News: Food Navigator reports FDA considering requests related to deadline for changes to Nutrition Facts Label; new label to go into effect July 2018 for large manufacturers, one year later for small companies

Commentary: Huffington Post publishes independent environmental journalist's piece questioning motives of March for Science co-organizer as being pro-GMO, refers to Genetic Literacy Project as "scientific crackerjacks" funded by Monsanto

Event: PBS debuts "Seed: The Untold Story" documentary that highlights activists' claims about decrease in seed varieties due to agribusiness involvement and how farmers, scientists, and lawyers are

attempting to "defend the future of our food"

News: Digital Trends series examines innovative new solutions farmers, scientists, and entrepreneurs are working on to feed world; gene editing seen as one solution, with applications that can improve hardiness of crops, livestock

News: Civil Eats reports as seed industry consolidates with mergers, open source breeders hope to preserve handful of important varieties for farms of future; geneticist/plant breeder profiled, claims small farms stay viable by keeping costs down by saving seeds, growing seed crops to sell, developing new varieties that do well regionally

Commentary: Guest blogger on One Green Planet claims growing evidence shows GMO crops responsible for environmental damage, health problems; cites Charles Benbrook's research purporting GMO crops have led to increased pesticide use

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: SciDev.Net, reporting on Africa Diaspora Biotech Summit at University of Cambridge, notes Africa's biotech sector and genomics research hindered by lack of reliable electricity/energy supply

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Chairman of Indonesian peasant union writes Global Justice Now commentary to advocate for UN declaration granting rights to peasants for land, seed and biodiversity; highlights email campaign to Boris Johnson to support UN declaration

News: Philippine business newspaper reports Monsanto executives urging government to promote high-yielding GM corn seed to achieve goals of boosting output and enabling farmers to export; notes potential yield of latest variety is triple country's average

Announcement: Masipag Mindanao changing name to Agro-Eco Philippines to reflect organic agriculture NGO's extension to other parts of Philippine archipelago

Video: Indian news site posts video of Vandana Shiva calling on chancellor and students of Banaras Hindu University to help small farmers by supporting organic farming on campus and promoting indigenous food

More Asia items

Europe

News: Croatian media outlet reports only one food company currently has a GMO-free label on food products in Croatia despite lack of regulations defining the term GMO-free in Europe or the country

Commentary: Turkish newspaper claims GMO foods ruin human health, causing host of ailments, including fatigue, depression, back pain

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: La Via Campesina commemorates International Day of Peasants' Struggle by organizing demonstrations, public debates and festivals ahead of the UN Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group session (May 4) to raise awareness of peasant farmers' right to land, seeds and biodiversity

News: Bolivian news site reports business group asks government for leniency on deadlines for new rules

requiring GM food labels by end of year; extra costs for companies cited

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 17, 2017
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 4 02:12 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

U.S. taxpayer funding of controversial research groups, such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the Ramazzini Institute, continues to be a focus of food policy commentators. This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a piece by Steve Sherman in The Daily Caller that describes the "laughable" conspiracy theory suggesting that President Barack Obama's administration colluded with Monsanto to keep glyphosate on the market after the questionable IARC ruling on the herbicide's cancer-causing potential.

Our Stakeholder Spotlight this week focuses on a group founded by Ramazzini Institute president Phillip Landrigan, the Children's Environmental Health Network. The NGO recently launched a project that aims to highlight alleged dangers from glyphosate and other herbicides to children in the U.S. Midwest.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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 Environmental Health Network

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is an anti-chemical NGO founded by Ramazzini Institute president Philip Landrigan.

CEHN recently launched a "Herbicide Use and Birth

Stories Worth Sharing

Steve Sherman: IARC getting U.S. tax money to replace fact-based science with conspiracy theories

Kevin Folta: Don't cut funding for tomato gene project that benefits scientists, farmers and consumers

David Zaruk: American activists find "greener pastures" in Europe for emotional claims on topics such as GMOs, IARC glyphosate review

Alison Bernstein: Catteine more dangerous than glyphosate, yet we consume it willingly at high levels

Stephan Neidenbach: Dietitian behind "Food Sleuth" column fails to disclose close relationship with Organic Valley

Andrew Kniss: Herbicide use seems to be increasing more rapidly on non-GM crops than on GM varieties

Michigan State University researchers: Activist group's "Dirty Dozen" list does not use same rigorous standards as food safety scientists

Amjad Husaini: "Prejudiced campaign by vested interests" slowing acceptance of biotech crops

Outcomes in the Midwest" campaign led by Charles Benbrook that claims glyphosate and other pesticides are harming the health of children and mothers. It has been amplified by other activist groups, including U.S. Right to Know, Beyond Pesticides and March Against Monsanto.

To learn more about CEHN, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Genetic Literacy Project: Gates Foundation releases $10M grant to develop virus-resistant cassava to be grown in Africa

New Mexico farmer: Experience at SXSW festival shows people are starting to understand more about food production

Iida Ruishalme: European study shows honeybee survival depends on beekeeper education and disease control

Ivo Vegter: Organic movement as being "based on instinctive fear of progress and anti-scientific ignorance"

Ex-Iowa Farm Bureau president: Agriculture industry mergers could bring "next generation of innovative new solutions" sooner

Former Minnesota House Agriculture Committee chairman: Biotech innovations produce stronger crops, raise production

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Results of NGOs' Monsanto mock tribunal to be announced at Tuesday news conference

McDonald's advises shareholders to vote down proposal seeking timeline to phase out antibiotic usage in beef and pork supply

U.S. Right to Know promotes Canadian Food Inspection Agency testing that found glyphosate in 30 percent of samples

U.S. Food and Drug Administration extends comment period on genome editing regulations

NGOs urge Maryland's Republican governor to sign bill to prohibit neonic usage on pollinator habitat areas

Calendar highlights

April 17	April 18-19	April 19
International Day of Peasant Struggle promoted by La Via Campesina	Second International Conference on "Biotechnology in Agriculture" (Albania)	Collaborative on Health and the Environment conference call on human health impact of neonics
April 19-21	**April 20**	**April 20**
U.S. National Organic Standards Board meeting (Denver)	"SEED: The Untold Story: movie premieres in U.K., Australia, New Zealand	Collaborative on Health and the Environment conference call on antibiotic resistance

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 14-16, 2017
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2017 9:02 07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included French NGOs attempting to persuade the European Court of Justice that gene-edited products should be regulated as GMOs. A French candidate for president said he would like to eliminate the precautionary principle from decision-making policy on technology. A Colorado county commission voted in favor of a plan to phase out GM crops.

Consolidated highlights include:

- French NGO Inf'OGM published documents submitted by NGOs to the European Court of Justice arguing that products created using new gene-editing techniques should be regulated as GMOs. **See more**.
- French conservative presidential candidate Francois Fillon called the precautionary principle "deviant and arbitrary" and "a pretext for inaction." Instead, Fillon advocates for a "principle of responsibility." **See more**.
- The Boulder County Commission approved a plan to phase out GM crops and neonicotinoid use on county-owned lands. The Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources director criticized the action and said it "is an ideology-based decision" rather than a science-based one. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Food Navigator reports Dannon urges judge to dismiss false advertising lawsuit asserting dairy products from cows fed GMOs cannot be marketed as 'all natural,' says the action is based upon 'daisychained' logic

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project quotes former lab scientist who questions if organic community will accept newer gene editing techniques like 'rewilding', and how will they be regulated versus other biotech crops

Commentary: Vermont farmer comments on VT Digger on the Vermont Farm Bureau's interest in protecting industrial ag interests at expense of sustainable farming methods, highlights biotech crops' negative impact on health and environment

Commentary: Canadian-based journalist, farmer Kevin Hursh notes marketers say using science to defend GMOs is less effective than using empathy, consumers getting mixed messages; laments the 'food trend push' originates from agriculture due to heartfelt conviction GMOs are bad, marketing tactics, or profit motives

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian doctor blogs on the importance of adopting biotechnology in Nigeria to help boost food production and assist small-scale farmers to meet food demands

News: African news site reports ten ways African youth are reinventing agriculture on continent, experimenting with GM seeds to increase production and combat climate change among ways listed

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor calls on Competition Commission of India (CCI) to stop Dow-DuPont merger, pointing to dangers of potential to increase monopolistic powers of multinational corporations, points to conflict with Indian laws on seed patenting, believes more sustainable ag methods should be given a chance

News: Financial Times reports ChemChina moving aggressively in its timeline to purchase Syngenta after receiving clearance from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, deal could be completed by end of May

News: The Times of India reports Vandana Shiva emabarks on satyagraha yatra to 'create awareness about seed dictatorship', tribute paid to freedom fighters who fought British colonial rule in 1857

More Asia items

Europe

News: Le Monde reports on Volunteer Reapers' recent vandalism of BASF oilseed rape plots with seeds produced via mutagenesis, in protest that the crops are not regulated or labeled as GMOs, BASF's Jean-Marc Petat noted they are not GMOs and that the techniques used are allowed

News: French news site reports presidential candidate François Fillon considers precautionary principle 'deviant and arbitrary' and 'pretext for inaction', instead advocates 'principle of responsibility'

Commentary: French physicist writes in academic news site that France's popular consensus on GM food is in 'clear opposition to the scientific consensus' that GMOs do not pose risk to humans or animals; argues in democracies 'essential that the best available scientific information is the starting point for public debate'

News: French news site reports 2nd International Meetings of GMO Resistance to take place in Lorient April 28-30, representatives from 27 nations expected

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Brazilian news outlet interviews Monsanto's Robert Fraley, he voices excitement about developments in CRISPR technology, points to advantages in pending merger with Bayer, and highlights challenges posed by herbicide resistance

News: Puerto Rican news outlet reports on upcoming lecture by nutritionist Vilma Calderón on May 18, which will focus on impact of GM foods on human health and the environment, Calderon claims GMOs have not been sufficiently tested for safety, and that they are less nutritious while containing more allergens

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.

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Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9 04:20 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 news that a GMO pre-emption bill died in Oregon's House of Representatives, although a similar bill survives in the Senate. Health Care Without Harm promoted a purchasing guide to its "Redefining Protein" report, which advocates avoiding GM soy.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Capital Press reported an Oregon bill that would have allowed local governments to regulate GMOs failed to survive a legislative deadline. However, a similar bill was scheduled for a work session in the Senate. **See more**.
- The NGO Health Care Without Harm released a purchasing guide as a supplement to its "Redefining Protein" report. The supplement recommends avoiding GM soy because the crop is "linked to the increased use of pesticides." **See more**.
- A North Carolina State University researcher who chaired the National Academies of Sciences committee that published a report on GM crops last year, responded to a critique of the report by Henry Miller and Val Giddings. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Politico's morning ag roundup reports on former USDA deputy secretary Chuck Conner's statement that he has no interest in returning to USDA on sidelines of recent Consumer Federation of America's National Food Policy conference, his presentation included criticism of anti-GMO activism

News: New Jersey community news site reports Shiva Ayyadurai, a scientist who feels GMOs lack safety assessment standards, is running against Elizabeth Warren for Massachusetts U.S. Senate seat

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's newsletter reports on upcoming press conference on April 18 where the five Monsanto Tribunal judges will announce their opinion after reviewing testimony given last October, as well as on lawsuit alleging that Monsanto's labeling of Roundup is misleading, and opposition to proposed organic checkoff program

Interview: Grind TV interviews Hawaiian surf filmmaker Cyrus Sutton on his new documentary about GMO agriculture, which claims that Hawaii imports between 80 and 90 percent of its food due to presence of industrial ag companies testing GM crops on the islands, he points to health and environmental risks of GMOs and associated pesticides

News release: North Carolina State University's Fred Gould, who chaired the NAS report on GE crops last year, responds to "uninformed indictment" on the report's thoroughness, reiterates acceptance of GE crops is nuanced, public input and trust is essential, and more focus should be given to regulating plant characteristics

News: Politico's morning ag roundup reports on former USDA deputy secretary Chuck Conner's statement that he has no interest in returning to USDA on sidelines of recent Consumer Federation of America's National Food Policy conference, his presentation included criticism of anti-GMO activism

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes report that claims large agri-business mergers will "deepen inequalities" and exacerbate ecological, political, social crises

News: Nigerian news source reports professor Benjamin Ubi, president of the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria, says biotech will facilitate sustainable ag production and is a "panacea" to current food challenges; notes Ubi urges anti-GMO campaigners not to play politics

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Biotech professor replies to anti-biotech article in Kashmir Reader, notes biotechnology not held back by different scientific opinons, but by prejudiced campaigns by vested interests; notes studies show biotech reduces ploughing, reduces pesticide use, enhanced drought tolerance

News release: Syngenta announces acquisition by ChemChina approved by Chinese Ministry of Commerce; transaction expected to close in second quarter of 2017

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agrow reports Monsanto and Bayer received safety clearance from EFSA for two GM stacked-trait oilseed rape and soybean lines

Commentary: Ecological news site says UN report claims small-scale agriculture is only way to eliminate world hunger, not biotechnology

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site notes Mayans and their counsel have stymied GM planting, have taken case to Supreme Court, and elevated the question to possible elimination of GM cultivation permits

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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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 12, 2017
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:03:20 PM

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 India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee declined to review a GM mustard variety. In the U.S., prominent technology news outlet *Wired* summarized efforts to genetically engineer a virus that would confer resistance to citrus greening. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization announced a partnership with Consumers International on a hunger program.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Local news outlets reported that India's GEAC did not review a pending application to commercialize GM mustard. Officials told *Press Trust of India* that, despite an agenda which had included the crop, the GEAC was still waiting on a subcommittee review and recommendation before assessing the application. **See more**.
- Following up on reports that USDA had approved a trial of the technology, *Wired* magazine profiled the company behind efforts to genetically engineer a virus that would confer citrus greening resistance to mature trees. The article noted that while the company was also testing genetically engineered trees with an innate resistance to the pathogen, researchers said that consumer skepticism of GMOs and the long regulatory process for approval made that option a difficult sell for growers. **See more**.
- The FAO announced that it had partnered with international NGO Consumers International on its Zero Hunger program. The FAO announcement highlighted Consumers International's previous work on world hunger and added that it looked forward to building more "sustainable and equitable food systems" with the group. **See more**.

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North America

News: Monsanto, Syngenta technology leads share seed innovation projects with Iowa Farmer Today, note plans to expand insect traits, improve herbicide gene stacking, explore RNAi

Commentary: Andrew Kniss of University of Wyoming and William Price of University of Idaho write for The Breakthrough Institute in response to recent paper on biodiversity, they argue that more understanding of biodiversity in agriculture is needed, and that ideal biodiversity on and off the farm may not be the same or even compatible

Commentary: Writing for March Against Monsanto, AltHealthWORKS founder warns Houston is next battleground for GMO mosquitoes to 'fight zika virus'; suggests modified animals are profitable 'solution' to problems that have been blown out of proportion

News: The Dallas Morning News reports Dallas County considers using GM mosquitoes to fight zika virus; commissioner says it could save lives while another worries about "unintended consequences"

Commentary: GMO Answers' Commodity Crop Series posts profile on cotton, reports cotton production has doubled since 1950 due largely to improved varieties resistant to insects, herbicides

News: Quebec's Agence Science Presse amplifies paper published in Nature Communications journal arguing GM crops have had positive impact in regards to reducing herbicide use, overall toxicity; notes discussion of glyphosate links to cancer, allegations of EPA-Monsanto collusion persist

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news station reports Biosafety Appeals Board dismissed claims of GM crops in the food supply, professor refutes cancer claims on GM products

News: Ugandan Radio Network reports on farmers' rejection of Ag Ministry's intervention in fall armyworm attacks as inadequate, criticizing the Ministry for failing to subsidize or distribute free pesticides, following announcement that it has received 4.5 billion Shillings for pesticides, motorized spray pumps and awareness meetings

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council granted new intellectual properties for improved crop varieties

News: Press Trust of India reports GM mustard was not on the agenda at recent Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) meeting, Environment Ministry has received over 700 comments from various stakeholders thus far, and a sub-committee will submit a final report to GEAC after reviewing all comment

More Asia items

Europe

News release: John Innes Center announces it has been awarded £77.9m as part of new strategic program investments by UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), which will fund four new research programs including one geared towards developing improved wheat varieties

Commentary: Opinion article in Nature Correspondence argues that lengthy debate in Europe over regulating gene editing is failing scientists, noting that while debates are important, they often end in deadlock in the EU, hindering progress, believes that regulating products of gene editing as GMOs will cause further delays

Commentary: Czech Republic health news site contributor highlights economic cases for opposition to GMOs in Europe, but says benefits of allowing countries to choose whether they cultivate GMOs outweighs the risks

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: In Huffington Post, Food First director promotes Day of Peasant Struggle, March for Science

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:05 09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new amparo lawsuit filed by Greenpeace Mexico accusing regional authorities of ignoring illegal GM soy cultivation. In Nigeria, a government minister told local news outlets that his agency was meeting to finalize recommendations on GM crop production in the country.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Activists in Mexico launched new actions in the ongoing controversy over GM soy cultivation in the Yucatan Peninsula. Greenpeace announced that it had still not received a response from its report to the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (Senasica), which had informed the agency of possible GM soy cultivation despite a judicial stay on commercialization. As a result, the NGO said that on April 7 it had filed for an amparo trial in order to force the agency to respond. Meanwhile, Yucatan legal counselor Carlos Pavón Flores said that he had presented local beekeepers' arguments against GM soy cultivation before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation. **See more**.
- In Nigeria, the minister of science and technology told a local news outlet that the science, agriculture and environment ministries had plans to meet to discuss the country's stance on GM crop and animal cultivation. The agencies would coordinate and present a final recommendation to the Federal Executive Council "soon," Minister Ogbonnaya Onu told the *Daily Trust*. The news follows continued activism on Nigeria's recently passed biosafety law, including a claim published yesterday in which a political commentator accused the government of trying to "kill" the reputation of anti-biotechnology activists. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: University of Wyoming weed scientist Andrew Kniss summarizes his recent paper published in Nature Communications, argues that GM crops have had a positive effect on herbicide use intensity and mammalian toxicity; notes that if glyphosate were eliminated, other herbicides would take its place

News: Montana newspaper reports State Senate Bill 155 has passed both House and Senate and awaits Governor's signature; bill keeps local communities from banning GM crops

News: The Oregonian reports State House Bill 2739, which would allow legal action against the patent-holder for cross-contamination of GM crops, is scheduled for a work session (April 18)

News: Catholic news site amplifies Pope's message asking scientists to use new genetic technologies carefully and with 'humility,' says science must focus on health and not profits

Commentary: Food Babe Vani Hari promotes launch of Food Democracy Now's "Glyphosate Residue Free" label, tells readers label will keep them from getting poisoned from Roundup, notes first verified product is Leaf & Love Organic Lemonade

Commentary: Undark contributor examines Monsanto's search for a "Corporate Web Journalist," questioning what defines a "journalist," arguing that the job description is more for a marketing or communications specialist

News release: General Mills announces progress on global corporate social responsibility; report includes addressing issues ranging from consumer choices which include growing organic market and GMO labeling to stewardship including water quality, antibiotic-use and pollinator protection initiatives

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports Federal Government will soon take a final stand on whether or not to allow production and sale of GM crops and animals in the country, Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu argued that it doesn't make sense to import what can be produced locally

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes report on three ag industry mega-mergers, voices concern that resulting research will be geared towards high-profit proprietary products rather than products that are appropriate for Africa and South Africa's farmers, arguing that industry consolidation will increase prices for farmers

Commentary: South African news outlet contributor criticizes organic movement as being "based on instinctive fear of progress and anti-scientific ignorance," noting those that promote organic have never faced hunger, points out irony in their acceptance of plants produced via mutagenesis, but not by more precise GE techniques

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian newspaper reports Delhi High Court stays lower court's decision, temporarily allows Monsanto to avoid restoring sub-licensing agreement with Nuziveedu Seeds in dispute over patented Bt cotton technology; parties ordered to submit written briefs

News: Bloomberg - ChemChina to redistribute agrochemical assets to its Adama unit after Syngenta takeover; notes Adama is expected to strengthen its crop-protection products with better technology from ChemChina

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on consumer concerns that GM food is harmful to health and may cause cancer, Nguyen Lan Dung of Hanoi National University's Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology noted genes present in GM food are destroyed at high temperatures, arguing that is why GM foods are safe for consumers

More Asia items

Europe

Report: European Food Safety Authority publishes Panel on GMOs explanatory note clarifying scope and methodology for literature searching performed to prepare applications for market authorization of GMOs

News: Italian news outlet reports regional governor shared his beliefs during EU agriculture minister's visit that Europe should support local farmers and not multinational corporations by saying no to GMOs

News: Italian news outlet reports on EU Parliament resolution against authorization of Syngenta's GM maize variety, highlighting argument that European Food Safety Authority failed to consider impact of the several subcombinations, and Parliament's call on EU Commission to withdraw its plans for authorization

Interview: In interview with Hungarian radio station, General Director of National Agricultural Research and Innovation Center advocates creating a GMO-free National Protein Feed Program to decrease amount of GM crops being imported from the U.S.

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Yucatan news outlet reports on State Legal Counsel, Carlos Pavón Flores' recent presentation of allegations of Yucatecans against transgenic cultivation in the state before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN), pointing to negative impact on beekeepers whose honey shipments have been contaminated

News: Mexican news outlet reports on lawsuit filed by Greenpeace alleging that National Service of Sanitation, Safety and Food Quality (Senasica) violated its right to petition and information regarding claims of illegal GM soy cultivation in Campeche, arguing that Senasica failed to initiate inspection and monitoring to verify legal compliance

News release: Greenpeace Mexico and other NGOs file lawsuit alleging that National Service of Sanitation, Safety and Agroalimentary Quality (Senasica) has failed to communicate with local communities about any inspections or findings regarding illegal GM soy cultivation in Campeche, violating right to petition

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Commenting on Australia-EU free trade agreement negotiations, GrainGrowers notes price premiums for GM-free canola exported to EU are increasing due to ability to ensure no GM canola detected in the supply chain

News: Australian news outlet reports farmers agree with University of West Australian researcher's opinion that current regulations for GM crops and gene editing are "inhibiting future growth," relaxing the regulations could help produce climate-resistant crops at a faster pace

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 9 00:39 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from Pope Francis urging caution on the technology. In the U.S., the Department of Agriculture announced plans to trial a GE virus designed to resist citrus greening. Media outlets and international activists continued to amplify news on ChemChina's pending purchase of Syngenta.

Consolidated highlights include:

- During a speech at the Italian National Committee for Biosafety Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Pope Francis warned against the careless use of biotechnology. He urged scientists, companies and regulators to approach the subject of biotechnology with "humility" and warned that few can accurately predict the full consequences of powerful new technologies. **See more** .
- Syngenta announced that it received approval from Mexican regulators for ChemChina's purchase of the Switzerland-based company. Though details were limited, the company said that this ensured the deal remained on track to close in the second quarter. Activists in Europe continued to criticize the EU's recent approval of the acquisition. **See more**.
- USDA announced that it had approved limited testing of a new genetically modified virus that would protect citrus trees from citrus greening. Reporting on the news, Politico noted that the method did not require multi-agency approval because it was not a GM crop. Instead, as a plant virus, it would require permits for any future application. A report in Brazil's Canal Rural amplified the news, though it appeared to conflate the new approvals with previously reported efforts to design a greening-resistant tree. **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

Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announces plans to conduct Environmental Impact Statement for release of GE citrus tristeza virus, with goal of combating citrus greening disease, a public comment period is open until May 10

News: Politico's morning ag roundup reports on USDA's review of potential environmental impact of a GE virus that can be used in citrus trees to combat citrus greening, as well as Natural Resources Defense Council's plans to target antibiotic use in pork

Report: University of Wyoming plant scientist Andrew Kniss examines long-term trends in intensity and toxicity of herbicide use, finds that herbicide increases are more rapid in non-GE crops, while chronic toxicity has decreased

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor suggests if synthetic biology could improve world "beyond food," people might lose fear of GMO food; notes anti-GMO activists have exploited people's ignorance

News release: Research by the University of British Columbia, UniversitÃ© catholique de Louvain

(Belgium) and Delft University (The Netherlands) creates mathematical formula to better calculate how far GM pollen travels for cross-pollination

Commentary: Civil Eats contributor questions timing of Monsanto's investment in CRISPR technology as it and other large ag firms seek mergers, voices concern that more accessible gene editing technology will not be used to create more sustainable food systems, examines regulatory debate surrounding gene editing

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports the National Environmental Authority is requiring an environmental impact assessment of all field sites before field trials are approved for Monsanto's GM corn

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor reports Gates Foundation has released $10.46 million grant to fight cassava diseases by using genetic engineering, conventional breeding

Commentary: 2015 Cornell Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellow and Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, Nigeria program assistant Modesta Nnedinso Abugu recounts recent panel discussion of role of GM crops in African food security, highlights her remarks on potential for biotech to boost Nigeria's economy

Commentary: Political economist writes for Nigerian environmental news outlet, accuses government of attempting to discredit environmentalist Nnimmo Bassey, following National Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) report which found that GM crops do not boost yields or reduce pesticide use, and that they pose health and environmental risks

Commentary: Nigerian professor Mk Othman continues with part three of series on role of biotech in Nigeria's food security, examines several developments to improve nutrition and stress tolerance, believes Nigeria is on its way to achieving food self-sufficiency using biotech, but that fear hinders advancement

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian newspaper reports Delhi High Court stayed judge's order preventing Monsanto from terminating sub-licensing agreements with three seed companies

Commentary: Indian NGO issues letter urging Competition Commission of India to reject application for Dow-Dupont merger, claiming CropLife India misled CCI by submitting information prepared by companies

Commentary: International Food Policy Research Institute and Monsanto executives speak at Chinese ag development forum, recommend China invest in research, technological innovations

News: Indian business newspaper reports Delhi High Court upholds Monsanto's termination of Bt cotton sub-licensing agreements with seed manufacturer; court ruling overturns judge's stay that kept license agreements in force

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor examines debate over GM safety, points to several Vietnamese experts who argue that GM crops reduce pesticide use without sacrificing nutrition, as well as Americans who worry about lack of safety testing and rise in chronic health disorders, gives consumers tips on identifying GM products

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Pope Francis calls on biotechnology committee to be accountable in developing

technology, avoid putting profits ahead of citizens of poorest countries

News: Vatican Radio reports Pope Francis cautioned biotechnology scientists and companies against misuse of power, putting profits ahead of poor populations

News release: Syngenta announces its acquisition by ChemChina has been approved by Mexican competition authority

Commentary: German anti-GM NGO amplifies response from government official addressing the group's environmental concerns about spread of GMOs with genome editing or synthetic biology, official believes current regulations are suitable for now

Commentary: Swiss anti-GMO NGO Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei voices concern about EU approval of ChemChina's proposed acquisition of Syngenta, claiming that increased industry consolidation and seed control will lead to reduced biodiversity, promotes upcoming "March against Monsanto & Syngenta"

Report: European Food Safety Authority Panel on GMOs issues Scientific Opinion on Monsanto/Bayer application for authorization of GM glufosinate and glyphosate tolerant oilseed rape and subcombinations, the panel found no food and feed safety or nutrition risks, and no environmental risks in the event of accidental release

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Embrapa researcher to discuss how GM can change people's lives as part of the International "Pint of Science" festival (May 15-17) in Brasilia

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on USDA's planned testing of potential environmental impacts of a GE virus designed to combat citrus greening in citrus trees, US orange production has dropped 50 percent since 2008 due to the disease

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Ensenada residents' support of project, "Sobre ruedas Orgánico Ensenada," where vendors can sell organic foods and promote environmentally friendly products, the event also hopes to familiarize people with vegan and vegetarian products

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 - April 10, 2017
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:56:04 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a series of articles that dissect misleading, inaccurate and biased claims by environmental activist groups. Richard Levine and Hank Campbell offer pieces dismantling claims from a recent Center for Biological Diversity "Pollinators in Peril" report claiming that numerous bee species could face extinction. Alex Berezow of the American Council for Science and Health gives a profile of the Center for Media and Democracy's SourceWatch while David Zaruk asks more broadly why NGOs are able to keep their influence despite clear issues with their financing, conflicts of interests and beyond. There's also a feature from Politico on a businessman who is a key funder of activist groups such as Corporate Europe Observatory and Friends of the Earth, which have been vocal opponents of pesticides and biotechnology, amid new scrutiny of NGO funding in the EU.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: GMO Inside

The GMO Inside campaign aggressively lobbies for mandatory GMO labeling initiatives throughout the U.S. and encourages members to purchase or download "caution" labels they can use in stores to brand products that do not support GMO-free labeling.

The campaign was founded in 2012 by John Roulac, the CEO of organic, non-GMO

Stories Worth Sharing

Richard Levine: Bee researchers deem NGO's claims about extinction threat unsupported, misleading, not credible

Alex Berezow: SourceWatch is politicized, unscientific Wikipedia that takes "dark money" to attack Monsanto, glyphosate, GMOs

Kevin Folta: Non-GMO whiskey taking advantage of how poorly consumers understand risk

Hank Campbell: Center for Biological Diversity using "guesswork" to claim hundreds of bee species face extinction threat

David Zaruk: How do activist campaigns get away with lying about finances and conflicts of interest?

Capital Press: Oregon lawmakers should let FDA and USDA regulate farm antibiotic use, defeat "troubling" bill

Paul Driessen: By allowing bumblebee to be listed as endangered, Interior secretary opened "Pandora's box"

Cereal Growers Association chairman: Kenya's deputy president should honor "unfulfilled promise" to lift GMO ban

Tim Barker: U.S. EPA decision reversed chlorpyrifos ban

hemp, coconut and palm oil company Nutiva. Its original stated goal was responding to the California Prop 37 defeat to get mandatory GMO labeling. Maharishi movement follower Jeffrey Smith and "Food Babe" Vani Hari are among individuals previously listed as members of the group's steering committee.

GMO Inside now shares offices - as well as a campaign director - with the NGO Green America

To learn more about GMO Inside, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

recommendation based on questioned studies

Stephan Neidenbach questions how much money Mother Jones' Tom Philpott receives from organic industry to stay "on message"

Politico: Lebanese businessman's funding of Corporate Europe Observatory, other NGOs under scrutiny in Brussels

Founder of Washington pollination business: "Neonics are our friends"

Wisconsin Republican Party official: EPA chlorpyrifos ruling "restored a 50-year track record of a proven farming tool"

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

University of Iowa/USGS study finds neonics in Iowa drinking water / Embargoed USGS study to highlight mixture of pesticides, antibiotics in water

KFC to end use of medically important antibiotics in its chicken supply by end of 2018; activists demand pork industry follow suit

Activists respond to U.S. EPA chlorpyrifos decision with lawsuit, demands for California to ban the chemical

EU, U.S. regulators allow ChemChina-Syngenta deal to move forward

Supreme Court to hear arguments on jurisdictional dispute over Waters of the United States rule

Calendar highlights

April 10-11	April 10-13	April 11-12
Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: Asia	Water for Food global conference	Consumer Federation of America National Food Policy Conference
April 11	**April 17**	**April 18-19**
French Senate Committee on European Affairs colloquy on endocrine disruptors	International Day of Peasant Struggle promoted by La Via Campesina	Second International Conference on "Biotechnology in Agriculture" (Albania)

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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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 Swadeshi Jangran Manch asking Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ban Monsanto from the country. Oregon news sites reported a state committee this week will discuss a bill giving local governments the ability to regulate GMOs.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Indian news outlets reported RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jangran Manch and Vandana Shiva appealed to the Indian prime minister to prohibit Monsanto from operating in the country, claiming it illegally introduced glyphosate-tolerant crops noting glyphosate has been declared a probable carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Monsanto officials pointed out the crops were introduced only after approval by regulatory authorities. **See more**.
- Oregon's Senate Environment Committee will discuss during Wednesday meetings a bill that would restore the ability to regulate GMOs to local governments. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: We Love GMOs and Vaccines' Neidenbach column criticizes anti-conventional agriculture Mother Jones' "journalist" Tom Philpott for participating in organic industry sponsored event

News: Oregon CBS affiliate reports on Senate Bill 1037 and House Bill 2739 which would protect farmers in Jackson and Josephine counties from cross-contamination from GM crops, HB 2739 needs more support by April 7 or it will die, Elise Higley of Our Family Farms emphasized farmers' right to be protected from GMOs

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor dismisses common anti-GMO argument about patented seeds, noting organic growers frequently purchase patented seeds, and have other strategies for protecting their breeding products

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health contributor claims SourceWatch is a politicized, unscientific Wikipedia that takes dark money to fund smear articles on people, groups it opposes, citing articles on Monsanto, GMO, glyphosate

Report: Review in AAAS publication Science examines potential for ChemChina's takeover of Syngenta to speed up GM commercialization in China, as the country would have a large state-owned company with competitive seed lines, highlights challenge of winning over public opinion

News: Food Navigator reports during confirmation hearing, FDA commissioner nominee agreed with Sen. Roberts on concerns new nutrition labeling should coincide with GMO labeling requirements; food industry trade associations worried two years not enough time to implement

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Writing in Kenyan news source, Egerton University crop expert says armyworms are ravaging hundreds of farms in nation, lists bio-pesticides, Bt maize among viable solutions

News: Kenyan business news site reports state agencies disagree on GM maize field trials; National Biosafety Authority says field trials must go on and GM maize found safe, while ational Environmental Authority director demands safety assurances

Commentary: David Makumi of Kenya Network of Cancer Organisations writes for local news outlet, criticizes health ministry's views against GMOs, noting they are safe for human consumption, and necessary for food security in face of drought, notes alcohol is a proven carcinogen, but is viewed as socially acceptable

News: Ethiopian news site reports Haramaya University opens biotechnology forum with other stakeholders to provide credible information

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor profiles scientist Frank A. Shotkoski, and his belief that biotech has great potential to boost food security and improve human health and nutrition, highlights his GM crop research at University of the Philippines at Los Baños

Report: Review in AAAS publication Science examines potential for ChemChina's takeover of Syngenta to speed up GM commercialization in China, as the country would have a large state-owned company with competitive seed lines, highlights challenge of winning over public opinion

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on recent meeting for stakeholders on Biosafety Regulatory Framework, where Federal Minister for Climate Change Zahid Hamid announced plans to strengthen National Biosafety committee to make it more effective and improve coordination between provinces, health impacts of GMOs were also discussed

News: Indian news outlet reports on Sangh Parivar affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch's (SJM) investigation of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's influence on India's health policies, its draft paper coming soon after RSS affiliate Bharatiya Kisan Sangh lobbied for government control of cotton seed prices to break Monsanto's monopoly

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters reports on recent global conference on synbio in London, where experts spoke about the fast pace of development as well as public uncertainties, highlights Friends of the Earth's condemnation of synbio vanillin as "extreme" genetic engineering

News: Politico profiles Ayman Jallad, biggest supporter of NGOs Corporate Europe Observatory and Friends of the Earth, is on crusade against European Commission and GM crops, says "killing people is less a crime than chopping down trees"

Report: Report in Environmental Research examines environmental impacts of GM plants, highlights problems of herbicide and insecticide resistance and negative impact on off-target species and biodiversity, authors call for more in-depth research

News: Irish ag news outlet reports on MEPs' opposition to EU Commission plans to authorize food and feed imports from an herbicide and pest-resistant GM maize variety, adopting a non-binding resolution by 426 votes to 230, objecting to lack of data on the many sub-combinations of the variety

News: EurActiv reports on European Biopharmaceutical Enterprises (EBE) report which found that the EU is lagging behind in biotech due to lack of support from investors, universities or research institutions, making it difficult to keep up with the US

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Mexican news outlet interviews Chihuahua Secretary of Rural Development Rubén Chávez Villagrán, he laments lack of public education about GMOs, pointing to health benefits of biotech applications such as insulin production, however he warns that planting transgenic maize could contaminate native varieties

Commentary: Mexican news site contributor evaluates GM crops in light of bioethics and what they contribute

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand Parliament announces Resource Management Act amendments withdrawn; would have prevented local governments from regulating GMOs, notes Hawkes Bay producers worked to keep region GE-free

News release: New Zealand's Maori Party announces its recent Mana Whakahono-a-Rohe agreements, and successful negotiation of Resource Legislation Amendment Bill to prevent ministers from overriding local councils' restrictions on GMOs

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Resending with correction noted below in red.

Today's global biotechnology developments included a European Parliament resolution asking the European Commission to deny approvals for herbicide- and pest-resistant crops. The Center for Science in the Public Interest claimed the Grocery Manufacturers Association is "undermining public health" by asking to delay revised nutrition labels in the United States.

Consolidated highlights include:

- An EU Parliament resolution asked the commission to reject herbicide- and pest-resistant GM crop authorizations. The resolution also called for reforming the EU's crop licensing procedure and objected to a lack of data on variety sub-combinations. **See more**.
- Center for Science in the Public Interest accused the GMA of "undermining public health" by asking to delay revised nutrition fact labels until the U.S. Department of Agriculture rolls out GMO labels. **See more**.

  An earlier version of Global Biotech Snapshot mischaracterized the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) as opposing biotechnology. We regret the error.

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North America

News: Food Safety News reports that during confirmation hearing, potential FDA commissioner discussed timing new nutrition labeling with new GMO labeling requirements; reviewed GE salmon approval

Commentary: On Medium, pro-biotech blogger argues that Chipotle's decision to remove GM ingredients from its menu is short-sighted, relies too much on IARC designations and lack of understanding on pesticide use

News: New York Times reports on EU Commission approval of ChemChina's proposed acquisition of Syngenta, which will require significant divestitures to avoid competition concerns, highlights challenges as China moves forward on GMOs, as Chinese consumers are still wary of the technology

Commentary: Natural News contributor examines evidence of alleged conflicts of interest in National Academy of Sciences' panel on GMOs, pointing to biotech industry ties of several panel members, claims NAS has been "totally corrupted"

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies research on transgenic bananas successfully resisting nematodes and bacterial wilting disease, says small-scale farmers in Africa stand to benefit

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA notes Kenyan youth farmers urge government to approve water-efficient GM maize, believe it is the answer to drought plaguing Kenyan farmers

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vandana Shiva describes recent farmer protests and criticizes debt 'colonialism' by multinationals; highlights upcoming Satayagraha Yatra with goal of making India "poison free, debt free and suicide free"

News: Times of India reports on upcoming Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) meeting on April 12, where members will discuss pending applications for different varieties of GM crops, an official noted that once confined field trials are authorized, states must grant no-objection certificates

Video: Iranian news station reports on biotech crops as an "efficient and effective tool" in agriculture, notes potential for helping with salinity and drought issues

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: CropLife International CEO, chairman say farmers need continued access to crop protection, biotechnologies to meet meet goal of eradicating hunger by 2030

Commentary: Rob Verkerk of Alliance for Natural Health International voices concern about Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) recent ruling that will make it more difficult for member states to invoke the 'safeguard clause' to ban GM crop cultivation, claims industry influence over EFSA may make proving "clear" evidence of harm more difficult

News: Italian news agency ANSA reports EU Parliament passed resolution asking Commission not to authorize GM, herbicide- and pest-resistant crops; highlights lack of data on sub-combinations of maize, calls for Commission to revamp GMO authorization process

Announcement: EFSA panel on GMOs finds Bayer's two-event stack soybean is "as safe as the non-genetically modified (GM) comparator" in terms of potential effects on health and environment

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports two groups form new NGO, Scientific Committee on Biotechnology, to counter those interested in introducing GMOs; trade official criticizes new NGO, notes GMOs useful in other countries

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist says planting GM maize in Mexico would be environmental, cultural disaster and do not increase yields; says challenge will be to prevent NAFTA from requiring Mexico to accept GM maize cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand business news outlet reports on National Party's concessions to Maori Party to allow local councils to create GE-free regions, to facilitate passage of Resource Legislation Amendment Bill, highlights reactions of various other parties

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports on lobby group Pure Hawke's Bay's claimed victory in

fight for local councils to maintain GE-free status with reforms to Resource Management Act, Federated Farmers president William Rolleston believes the law will create a "mess" with a lot of uncertainty

News: New Zealand Herald reports on Maori Party co-leader Marama Fox's successful deal re reforms to Resource Management Act to allow local councils to ban GMOs, Soil and Health chair Marion Thomas noted they wanted ability to ban GE animal trials as well, but Environment Minsiter Smith argued that could hinder important medical research

News release: New Zealand anti-GMO group GE Free Northland praises Maori Party for successfully blocking government from passing changes to the Resource Management Act that would block local councils from restricting GMOs, the group voices concern about GE animal research

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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 European Parliament resolution asking the European Commission to deny approvals for herbicide- and pest-resistant crops. The Center for Science in the Public Interest claimed the Grocery Manufacturers Association is "undermining public health" by asking to delay revised nutrition labels in the United States.

Consolidated highlights include:

- An EU Parliament resolution asked the commission to reject herbicide- and pest-resistant GM crop authorizations. The resolution also called for reforming the EU's crop licensing procedure and objected to a lack of data on variety sub-combinations. **See more**.
- Anti-biotech NGO Center for Science in the Public Interest accused the GMA of "undermining public health" by asking to delay revised nutrition fact labels until the U.S. Department of Agriculture rolls out GMO labels. **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.

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North America

News: Food Safety News reports that during confirmation hearing, potential FDA commissioner discussed timing new nutrition labeling with new GMO labeling requirements; reviewed GE salmon approval

Commentary: On Medium, pro-biotech blogger argues that Chipotle's decision to remove GM ingredients from its menu is short-sighted, relies too much on IARC designations and lack of understanding on pesticide use

News: New York Times reports on EU Commission approval of ChemChina's proposed acquisition of Syngenta, which will require significant divestitures to avoid competition concerns, highlights challenges as China moves forward on GMOs, as Chinese consumers are still wary of the technology

Commentary: Natural News contributor examines evidence of alleged conflicts of interest in National Academy of Sciences' panel on GMOs, pointing to biotech industry ties of several panel members, claims NAS has been "totally corrupted"

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies research on transgenic bananas successfully resisting nematodes and bacterial wilting disease, says small-scale farmers in Africa stand to benefit

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA notes Kenyan youth farmers urge government to approve water-efficient GM maize,

believe it is the answer to drought plaguing Kenyan farmers

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vandana Shiva describes recent farmer protests and criticizes debt 'colonialism' by multinationals; highlights upcoming Satayagraha Yatra with goal of making India "poison free, debt free and suicide free"

News: Times of India reports on upcoming Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) meeting on April 12, where members will discuss pending applications for different varieties of GM crops, an official noted that once confined field trials are authorized, states must grant no-objection certificates

Video: Iranian news station reports on biotech crops as an "efficient and effective tool" in agriculture, notes potential for helping with salinity and drought issues

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: CropLife International CEO, chairman say farmers need continued access to crop protection, biotechnologies to meet meet goal of eradicating hunger by 2030

Commentary: Rob Verkerk of Alliance for Natural Health International voices concern about Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) recent ruling that will make it more difficult for member states to invoke the 'safeguard clause' to ban GM crop cultivation, claims industry influence over EFSA may make proving "clear" evidence of harm more difficult

News: Italian news agency ANSA reports EU Parliament passed resolution asking Commission not to authorize GM, herbicide- and pest-resistant crops; highlights lack of data on sub-combinations of maize, calls for Commission to revamp GMO authorization process

Announcement: EFSA panel on GMOs finds Bayer's two-event stack soybean is "as safe as the non-genetically modified (GM) comparator" in terms of potential effects on health and environment

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports two groups form new NGO, Scientific Committee on Biotechnology, to counter those interested in introducing GMOs; trade official criticizes new NGO, notes GMOs useful in other countries

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist says planting GM maize in Mexico would be environmental, cultural disaster and do not increase yields; says challenge will be to prevent NAFTA from requiring Mexico to accept GM maize cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand business news outlet reports on National Party's concessions to Maori Party to allow local councils to create GE-free regions, to facilitate passage of Resource Legislation Amendment Bill, highlights reactions of various other parties

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports on lobby group Pure Hawke's Bay's claimed victory in fight for local councils to maintain GE-free status with reforms to Resource Management Act, Federated Farmers president William Rolleston believes the law will create a "mess" with a lot of uncertainty

News: New Zealand Herald reports on Maori Party co-leader Marama Fox's successful deal re reforms to

Resource Management Act to allow local councils to ban GMOs, Soil and Health chair Marion Thomas noted they wanted ability to ban GE animal trials as well, but Environment Minsiter Smith argued that could hinder important medical research

News release: New Zealand anti-GMO group GE Free Northland praises Maori Party for successfully blocking government from passing changes to the Resource Management Act that would block local councils from restricting GMOs, the group voices concern about GE animal research

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - April 5, 2017
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 9 00:44 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 announcements from U.S. and European regulators approving ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta. New Zealand's Resource Management Act also continued to generate controversy.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the European Commission announced that they had approved ChemChina's purchase of the European agricultural company Syngenta. European regulators noted that both companies would be required to sell off some of their crop protection businesses in order to meet anti-monopoly requirements. **See more**.
- Activists in New Zealand continued to encourage supporters to engage on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Act, particularly its provisions limiting regional districts' ability to ban GM crop cultivation. The New Zealand Soil and Health Association praised the Maori Party for pushing National Party negotiators to allow regional crop bans to continue. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Bloomberg reports ChemChina received EU antitrust approval for its takeover of Syngenta, one day after receiving U.S. approval, deal expected to be finalized by the end of June despite still needing approval from Chinese antitrust authorities

Commentary: American Antitrust Institute president says agribusiness mergers will impact growers, consumers through higher prices, fewer choices

News: Politico reports on FDA commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb's suggestion that he may be willing to push back the Nutrition Facts label update deadline to align it with USDA's GMO labeling regulation, highlighting importance of consolidating the label changes

Audio: Marketplace reports on China's slowing of approval of U.S. GM crop exports, as it eases its own restrictions on GMOs to meet increased meat consumption demads of its growing middle class, Peter Phillips of University of Saskatchewan believes the slowing of export approvals may be strategic

More North America items

Africa

News: New Telegraph contributor reports NABDA-CGAL collaboration could make Nigeria a 'hub' for increased crop productivity; quotes NABDA director general on need for agriculture to utilize biotechnology

More Africa items

Asia

News: AP reports U.S and EU regulators have approved ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta pending the divesture of several pesticides for anti-monopoly complaints, hopes to increase Syngenta's presence within China

Audio: Marketplace reports on China's slowing of approval of U.S. GM crop exports, as it eases its own restrictions on GMOs to meet increased meat consumption demads of its growing middle class, Peter Phillips of University of Saskatchewan believes the slowing of export approvals may be strategic

News: Vietnamese news site reports Vietnamese agency asserts country does not grow GM corn commercially, says rumors spread that GM corn is in market and causes cancer

News: Fiji Times reports individuals overseeing imports of GM crops into the country received more training, officials concerned with potential impacts of GM crops with current subsistence and organic methods

News: Manila Standard reports on protest against Department of Agriculture's proposed Masagana 6000 program with goal of boosting rice yields using hybrid varieties, Cris Panerio of MASIPAG claimed IRRI's past varieties have failed to boost production and have damaged soil health

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Syngenta and ChemChina announce they have received approval from EU Commission for proposed acquisition of Syngenta by ChemChina, they expect the transaction will close in the second quarter of 2017

News release: Syngenta announces U.S. trade commission has approved ChemChina acquisition of the seed company, deal expected to happen in second quarter of 2017

News release: Friends of the Earth Europe claim European Commission's approval of ChemChina-Syngenta and Dow-DuPont mergers threatens bees, environment, food security; urges Commission to reject Bayer-Monsanto purchase

News: Feed Navigator reports on debate over whether or not new breeding techniques such as CRISPR could be used in organic systems to help close productivity gap, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) believes products of NBTs should be regulated as GMOs

Commentary: Helena Paul and Ricarda A. Steinbrecher of EcoNexus and Elisabeth Bücking of Gene-ethical Network write for The Ecologist, arguing that products of Synbio and New Breeding Techniques (NBTs) are distinct from GMOs, posing new risks that warrant more stringent regulation, such as off-target effects

Commentary: The Risk-Monger David Zaruk says in part 3 of NGO series that NGOs continually lie. break rules, laws, have conflicts of interest on studies, plot to overthrow industry and conventional agriculture, but do not face consequences of their actions due to dogmatism of today's "eco-religion"

News release: EU Parliament announces resolution opposing Commission's GM maize authorization proposal, calls for reform to GM crop licensing procedure, object to lack of data for sub-combinations

Report: Quaker United Nations Office calls on governments to support small-scale farmers, embracing agricultural biodiversity and their seed systems; claims industrial agriculture is harming the environment

News: WikiAgri reports French presidential candidates' stance on environment, biotechnology; notes some candidates favor bans on GMOs, neonicotinoids, endocrine-disrupting chemicals

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Former state Farmers and Graziers Association CEO amplifies Australia's Productivity Commission report, says agricultural boom held back by red tape such as GMO bans

News: Hawke's Bay Today reports the North Island region is one step closer to staying GMO-free following an agreement between the National and Maori Parties over resource management law updates

News release: New Zealand Soil and Health Association welcomes change to Resource Legislation Amendment Bill to prevent Minister for the Environment from allowing cultivation of GM crops in regions that want to remain GE-free, praises Maori party but notes concern that GE animals are not mentioned

Letter to the editor: Maharishi Foundation consultant criticizes NZ Parliament for trying to curb regional GMO bans; compares legislators to Nazis and claims GMOs are human experiment

News: Australian Broadcasting Association reports Monsanto's Bollgard 3 may be the answer for cotton that can withstand northern Australia's insects during wet season

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Apr. 4, 2017
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 9:04:10 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 commentary included ongoing response to recent reports examining how Europe should regulate new plant breeding techniques, while activists in Mexico asked the country's Supreme Court to support their rejection of GM soy cultivation.

Consolidated highlights include:

- European commentators continued to discuss recent reports on whether to regulate "gene edited" crops as traditional GMOs. In Germany, academics with the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) published a commentary on a recent EASAC report addressing the issue; the researchers note that, in order to avoid constraining innovation, EASAC had recommended regulatory efforts focus on the specific application of new plant breeding techniques rather than focusing on the technology as a whole. In France, the country's Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Science and Technology (OPECST) had issued a similar report last week; the report's recommendations were discussed in new commentary today from anti-biotechnology group Inf'OGM. **See more**.
- In Mexico, activists associated with EDUCE, AC issued an open letter to a minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, urging him to support governments in the Yucatan peninsula in their efforts to stop the cultivation of GM soy. The group cited the IARC report on glyphosate, claiming that the chemicals used in commercial GM soy production put the local Mayan community at an increased risk of cancer. They also warn that soy cultivation requires deforestation and would harm local farmers and beekeepers. **See more**.

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North America

News release: American Seed Trade Association announces "Storm the Hill" event April 5 in Washington D.C. to push several legislative policies, highlights plant breeding regulation and key USDA research programs

Audio: Being Skeptical podcast focuses on dispelling many of Vandana Shiva's myths about biotech, including her claims about negative impact of the Green Revolution, farmer suicides, control of multinational corporations, terminator seeds and glyphosate

Commentary: University of Florida professor notes contradiction of whiskey manufacturers promoting alcohol as non-GMO for consumer safety despite selling a product the IARC labels as a group 1 known carcinogen

News: Tech news site reports study from North Carolina State University finds significant shortfall in "refuge" cropland being planted in North Carolina, likely increasing rate at which crop pests will evolve and safely devour Bt crops

Commentary: Friends of the Earth writer summarizes Future Food-Tech Conference, questions next

generation of GM products such as Arctic Apple and Impossible Burger; says technology is moving faster than regulators can assess

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian environmental news site guest columnist, with Health of Mother Earth Foundation, says NGO disputes claims GM crops offer higher yields, more profits as 'mostly mere propaganda'; animal studies cited purporting GMO feed lead to organ damage, gastrointestinal and immune system disorders, infertility

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: MASIPAG criticizes International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for taking traditional rice varieties from around the world and replacing them with seeds that require intensive chemical applications, claiming IRRI's farming system has led to increase in hunger and rural poverty

News: Indian textile industry news site reports Punjab Agricultural University develops two varieties of BT cotton and is first agriculture institute to develop reusable seeds; adds varieties could be available to farmers by 2018 cotton season if approved by GEAC

Commentary: Former USDA biotechnology regulator, writing in Indian magazine, says local activism and government apathy is undermining food security in the country, notes benefits of biotechnology

Commentary: CropLife International managing director shares economic and environmental benefits Bt eggplant crops have provided for Bangladeshi farmers, highlights reduced insecticide use

News: Vietnamese news site reports country plans to allow GM crops by 2020, focusing on corn, cotton and soybean; adds GM food already sold in Vietnam

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on government efforts to dispel misinformation being circulated on social media about GM sweet corn in Vietnam, leading to health concerns and calls for boycott, Nguyen Thi Thoa of Hanoi ag department noted the only GM maize varieties currently in use are for animal feed

News release: RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science announces development of GM rice strains that are resistant to drought in real-world situations, yielding more than unmodified rice when subjected to stress caused by natural drought

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes recent Parliamentary report which recommends that products of gene editing should not be regulated as GMOs, arguing that insertion of foreign DNA is not a prerequisite for the status of GMO in EU law

News: French environment news outlet reports on Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices' (Opecst) new report recommending that plants derived from new breeding technologies do not constitute GMOs, and calling for field trials

Commentary: European Academies Science Advisory Council researchers explain recommendation that regulators focus on specific applications of genome editing techniques versus the broader technology, say regulation must be evidence-based

News: EurActiv reports on draft EU parliament report questioning how EU allocates funding for NGOs and calling for transparency and to de-fund groups that spread 'untruths,' quotes Friends of the Earth and EuropaBIO reps on the recommendations

Interview: L'Indro reporter speaks with agronomy professor Eddo Rugini about GMOs, researcher says misguided activism has forced the EU to rely on other countries for innovation and food imports; calls for Italy to invest in the field

Commentary: British Society of Plant Breeders CEO discusses uncertainty for British agriculture under Brexit, notes separation from EU could allow for pursuit of biotechnology but clarity needed on country's IP framework

News: French news outlet reports on anti-GMO NGO Vigilance OGM 36's recent general assembly, in which it outlined plans to continue warning the public about "hidden GMOs" derived by mutagenesis

More Europe items

Latin America

Campaign: Mexican human rights NGO and several other organizations and individuals write letter of opposition to proposed General Law of Biodiversity, claiming it affects biocultural heritage and threatens traditional knowledge of indigenous communities

Campaign: Mayan communities write open letter to Minister of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Tomás Medina-Mora Icaza, asking for ruling to cancel permits granted to Monsanto for GM soy cultivation, pointing to health, environmental and economic risks of GM crops and their associated pesticides

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE Free New Zealand says it's 'crunch time' for GM Free regions as critical stage of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill looms; notes the Maori Party is expected to help protect GM Free regions

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:02:56 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from NGOs in France calling for the High Council on Biotechnology to incorporate their concerns about new plant breeding techniques. In Africa, controversy over Kenya's delayed GM maize field trials continued.

Consolidated highlights include:

- European activists, nearly a year after resigning from France's High Council on Biotechnology (HCB), issued a letter explaining that they would be willing to rejoin the organization if their concerns about novel plant breeding techniques were addressed in official HCB documents. The letter, provided to French environmental news outlet Actu Environnement, claimed that concerns about technologies such as gene editing had been censored in the HCB's official monograph on the subject. **See more on the HCB concerns**. **See more on NBTs in Europe**.
- Speaking with Kenya's Business Daily, the director of the country's National Environment Management Agency (NEMA) countered criticism of his department for its delay of GM maize field trials. NEMA Director General Geoffrey Wahungu told the news outlet that his agency's opposition had been mischaracterized and that the agency was delaying the licenses until they could determine the safety of the process. He added that consumers had raised concerns about cross-contamination of local varieties and illegal sales of the crops in local markets. **See more**.
- In a new series of articles, Slate magazine examined the potential and the concerns around synthetic biology. The articles review applications ranging from ethanol production to developing medicinal compounds, adding that the technology raises many of the same consumer concerns that genetically modified organisms and new gene-editing technologies also raised. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Editorial director for Manitoba Co-operator defends value of Ag in the Classroom Canada against opponents of GMO technology, who see program as pro-GMO propaganda

Event: South Dakota State University student group promotes Julie Borlaug visit to discuss biotechnology controversies April 12 at South Dakota State University; event sponsored by campus organizations, industry partners

Commentary: As part of Futurography series, Slate examines synthetic biology, notes applications encompass genetic engineering, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and molecular chemistry

Commentary: As part of Futurography series, Slate offers cheat-sheet guide to understanding synthetic biology, including key players, the big debates and lingo; adds there are few to no legal standards specific to synthetic biology

News: Alternative news site Inquisitr reports We Love GMOs and Vaccines' founder launches petition asking Chipotle to follow anti-GMO logic by not serving beef, pork after IARC classified red meat as

carcinogenic

Campaign: Green America urges supporters to sign petition calling on grocery store CEOs to reject genetically engineered Arctic Apples; petition claims GE apples may pose health hazard

News: Canadian ag news outlet reports on organic wheat's resistance to fusarium head blight, in spite of not using fungicides; quotes organic grower who says organic system that protected his crop from mycotoxin, while conventional systems were impacted

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports on National Environmental Management Authority (Nema) Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu's recent statement that national field trials of GM maize will not begin until an experimental design for GM maize has been tested, warns of cross-pollination risks

News: Kenyan newspaper reports university chancellor says public debate over GMOs should be based on facts, not emotion; chancellor maintains GMO technology key to self-sufficiency in food production

Commentary: Kenyan news outlet contributor writes in support of GMOs, noting Kenya's agriculture is being prevented from keeping pace with development, points to success of GMOs in other nations

More Africa items

Asia

News: Vietnamese news site reports Vietnam Institute of Applied Medicine says there is no scientific evidence confirming GM food is harmful to health; adds law requires all packaged GM food sold in Vietnam must have a GM label

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Network for GMO-free food and feed in Norway releases findings of recent survey on consumer opinion on GMOs, a majority of consumers do not want GMOs in the market, but believe that if GMOs are released, they should be labeled; consumers also voiced health and environmental concerns

News: French environment news outlet reports on conditions of seven organizations that resigned from the High Council for Biotechnology (HCB) last year in protest, they are willing to join again, but only if the council will take into account products of new breeding techniques, such as gene editing

Commentary: Turkish news site contributor says GM and gene edited foods cause health issues like allergies, cancer and physiological disorders; calls for ban on genetic modification, education to make people aware of risks

News: Fresh Fruit Portal reports Israeli company is conducting trials of GM banana that shows resistance to leaf spot disease; company science director fears GMO stigma in marketing new banana

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Dominican Republic news site reports on debate surrounding GM food safety, cites WHO assessments of 'no proven effects on human health'; interviews local nutritionist who says GM crops have same nutritional value as non-GM food, but notes concerns they may cause allergies and cancer

Commentary: Peruvian news site columnist says Cargill's new partnership with Non-GMO project and need for non-GM options could benefit Peru given its moratorium on GM crops and difficulty/cost separating GM and non-GM crops in major producer countries

News: Cayman Islands newspaper reports plan for national release of GM mosquitoes raises concerns; Institute for Responsible Technology questioned safety, highlights bacterial alternative

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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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 3, 2017
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 4:03:10 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Already investigating U.S. funding of the International Agency for Research on Cancer for similar reasons, Congress has now begun a probe into tax dollars being invested in cancer research by the Italy-based Ramazzini Institute. In a piece published by National Review, Jeff Stier and Julie Kelly describe how the Ramazzini Institute received more than $300 million from the U.S. government since 1985. Just since 2009, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences head Linda Birnbaum has funneled at least $92 million toward the institute and its fellows; Birnbaum is also one of the group's fellows.

The article is below in the Stories Worth Sharing section, along with pieces on U.S. Department of Agriculture funding of organic industry marketing and the potential of gene drive technology. The Ramazzini Institute is also featured in our Stakeholder Spotlight this week.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: Ramazzini Institute

An Italian-based enigmatic society and research institute is in the news for its role evaluating the carcinogenicity of pesticides and associated advocacy using U.S. tax dollars.

Last week, the U.S. House Science Committee announced an investigation

Stories Worth Sharing

Julie Kelly and Jett Stier: Congress right to examine funding of Ramazzini Institute, IARC amid allegations of politicized science

Henry Miller and Julie Kelly: U.S. should end subsidies for National Organic Program, which has become "massive special-interest bonanza"

Farm Babe: If California considers glyphosate carcinogenic, what about fishing poles and Disneyland?

Andrew Porterfield: 10 anti-GMO groups that put ideology ahead of science

Federal agriculture critic concerned Canada's proposed imidacloprid is political, has "huge gaps" in science

Salon's Angelo Young: Gene drive technology has potential to fight malaria if public can get past idea GMO is a "dirty word"

Kavin Senapathy: Sexism rampant in non-GMO movement

Douglas Wolf: Current endocrine disruptor tests "fully capable of detecting and characterizing potential adverse effects"

into more than $300 million in National Institutes of Health funding for the Ramazzini Institute and to members of its affiliated society, the Collegium Ramazzini - which include several high-ranking U.S. government officials.

Ramazzini-linked activists, working with its listed "partner" organization - the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) - have been in the news for lobbying California, the U.S. and the European Union to restrict or ban glyphosate and other chemicals for alleged low-dose links to cancer and other health risks.

To learn more about Ramazzini, CLICK HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

David Zaruk: Cargill decision to work with Non-GMO Project will "promote more unscientific food fears"

Steve Savage: U.S. EPA making progress in pesticide regulations, but concerns remain about integrity surrounding IARC and pollinator health

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture director general: Biotech scientists "on the brink of a deluge of new discoveries"

Pakistani newspaper explores potential benefits of biotechnology for growers of coffon, corn and other crops

Perdue Farms VP: Time for agriculture stakeholders and NGOs to end "food fight," focus on ways to help Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva environment

Financial Express: Nobel laureate gives lecture in Bangladesh on potential for GM crops to address hunger in developing countries

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rejects NGOs' petition seeking ban of chlorpyrifos, citing return to "sound science in decision-making"

Canada's special review finds presence of atrazine in groundwater does not pose risk; new review to examine drinking water

Indian court rules against Monsanto in dispute over coffon seed royalties

Discussion of proposed European EDC criteria planned at Friday meeting

Trump administration reportedly pushing for new version of WOTUS by end of year

Calendar highlights

April 3-6	April 4-5	April 4
National Institute for Animal Agriculture annual meeting (Columbus, Ohio)	European Chemicals Agency stakeholders day	SynBioBeta London conference
April 5-6	April 5	April 6
Deutsche Biotechnologietage 2017	University of Sussex bee researcher Dave Goulson presentation at Portsmouth Cathedral	NGOs host Burkina Faso forum on GM seeds
April	April	April

7	10-13	11-12
Member states competent authorities meeting on proposed EU EDC criteria	Water for Food global conference	Consumer Federation of America National Food Policy Conference

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

This weekend's global biotechnology developments included news that France's Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) released a report on gene editing. The European Court of Justice advocate general's released an opinion that would limit use of the precautionary principle in banning GM cultivation.

Consolidated highlights include:

- French media reported the OPECST released a report on gene editing that calls for public debate and regulatory clarification. It takes the stance that gene-edited products should not be regulated as GMOs. **See more**.
- EU Court of Justice Advocate General Michal Bobek suggested countries must prove GM crops are "a serious and evident risk likely to endanger health and the environment" to use the precautionary principle in banning GM crop cultivation. **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: Agricultural economist Jayson Lusk summarizes working paper to be presented in May, says changing climate conditions mask yield improvements attributable to GM corn adoption

Commentary: Environmental activist Evaggelos Vallianatos writes for Huffington Post, praising Canadian activist Tony Mitra's analysis of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) data on glyphosate residues in food, highlights Mitra's argument that glyphosate-tolerant GM crops are less poisonous than non-GM crops desiccated with it

Commentary: Farming blogger responds with disappointment to news another company (Cargill) has given into anti-GMO hype, partnered with Non-GMO Project instead of speaking up for farmers and supporting GM crops

Commentary: Rice University student examines public opposition to GE mosquito trials in Florida, highlighting the opposition's attempts to control public discourse on the topic, believes public health professionals can learn from such deceptive tactics to better increase public awareness about health initiatives

Video: Genetic Literacy Project amplifies Science Says video on the genetic modification process, arguing that the process is not "unnatural"

Commentary: Biology Fortified's Karl Haro von Mogel's April Fool's Day column gives tongue-in-cheek credit to Monsanto for helping him renovate his kitchen, mocking how activists claim he is an industry "shill"

More North America items

Africa

Study: African, UK researchers develop GE banana resistant to wilt disease, nematodes; diseases heavily impact productivity on bananas that are a staple for African diets

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports Cornell professor says biotechnology can provide much needed answers to food crisis

News: Indian news site reports continued delays in commercializing GM crops hinder research, development in agricultural technology

Commentary: Suman Sahai of Indian research and advocacy group Gene Campaign criticizes Maharashtra government's support of field trials for five GM crops, claims proper regulatory framework is not in place, highlights difficulty in developing a program for GMO labeling

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on consumer unease and misconceptions about GMOs, Le Huy Ham, Director of the Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Genetics, noted many products perceived to be GMOs, such as sweet corn, are not, noting GMOs are very costly to develop

News: The New Indian Express quotes Able-Ag executive director on the need for a modernized regulatory process on GMOs, notes locally developed crops in limbo due to field trial restraints

News: Indian magazine reports the International Soybean Growers Alliance is interested in exporting GM soybeans into India despite current regulations blocking import

More Asia items

Europe

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on Commission on Genetic Modification's (COGEM) environmental risk assessment of import and processing of an herbicide-tolerant GM maize variety, COGEM found that environmental risks were negligible, and that it is highly unlikely that it could spread in the wild

News: Courthouse News reports EU high court adviser gives 'limited' go-ahead to ban GMO cultivation, requiring proof of serious, evident risk, adding it's much more difficult to pass precautionary legislation on GMOs since EU law requires them to be rigorously vetted

News: Agence France-Presse reports on French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) report in support of gene editing technology, OPECST President Jean-Yves Le Déaut lamented that France is lagging behind in biotech, noting they do not support a research moratorium

News: French media report on Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) report on gene editing, which calls for public debate and regulatory clarification, points to many potential benefits of the technology, and argues its products should not be regulated as GMOs

Report: EuropaBio creates a consumer-friendly report outlining major benefits to GM crops, highlights safety of GM foods, global challenges it can help minimize, and remaining regulatory issues facing GM crops in the EU

Video: Belgian anti-GM activist group posts YouTube video detailing how field trials of GM poplar trees will affect the biodiversity of the region, highlights concerns about cross-pollination

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Mexican Senate announces approval of expansion of National Fisheries Institute's (INAPESCA) powers, enabling it to collaborate with National Health, Food Safety and Quality Service (Senasica) for risk assessment when using GMOs for for aquaculture or repopulation of bodies of water

News: Brazilian ag news outlet reports on Biotechnology Information Council's (CIB) recent release of database of all GMOs currently approved in Brazil, with goal of increasing public awareness about the technology

News release: Oxitec announces second successful field trial of GM mosquitos in Brazil to combat Zika and other diseases, mosquito population suppressed by 80 percent compared to untreated areas

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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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 a European Court of Justice announcement that the advocate general released an opinion that European Union member states must establish a clear risk to health or environment in order to adopt emergency measures regarding GMOs. A Greenpeace report claimed there are 30 links between Argentine President Mauricio Macri's government and large agribusinesses.

Consolidated highlights include:

- EU Advocate General Michal Bobek released an opinion regarding a lawsuit involving the Italian government and biotech advocate Giorgio Fidenato. The opinion, which is not binding on the European Court of Justice, is that countries must establish a "clear and serious risk to health and the environment" before using emergency measures for GM crops. Fidenato planted GM corn after the Italian government issued a decree banning cultivation of the EU's only authorized GM crop, MON 810. **See more**.
- Argentine news site *La Izquierda Diario* documented a Greenpeace report claiming President Mauricio Macri's government has 30 links to large agribusinesses, such as Monsanto and Syngenta, and suggesting those links are why a proposed seed law favors the businesses. The links included Secretary of Commerce Miguel Braun, who was founder and executive director of the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth, which received nearly 20 percent of its funding from Syngenta and Dow. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor writes a "Worst 10 List" of anti-GMO advocacy groups that put ideology over science

Commentary: Science communicator Kavin Senapathy says disinformation campaigns organized by the organic industry, many of them 'mired in sexism,' are contributing to a sharp rise in non-GMO market share

Campaign: NFU president Roger Johnson pens letter to President Trump urging him to oppose the Dow-DuPont merger; says it will be nearly impossible to 'remedy' agricultural consolidation

Commentary: Farm and Dairy contributor examines debate on GMOs, points to several benefits of the technology, lists allergenicity and pesticide resistance as disadvantages, advocates further education of the public about potential advantages and disadvantages

News: Pennsylvania newspaper highlights positive comments on the health and environmental benefits of biotechnology from Penn State agriculture professor at local Farm Bureau meeting; notes drought tolerance, pesticide reduction, increased yields

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Ghanaian news outlet contributor accuses Food Sovereignty Ghana of hypocrisy, noting they should not question credibility and qualifications of Ag Minister Dr. Owusu Afriyie-Akoto, unless they can produce a concrete plan to make Ghana food secure via organic, non-GMO agriculture

News: Kenya News Agency reports on scientists and scholars' arguments in favor of biotech to help boost food security, Chancellor of University of Embu, Paul Musili, highlighted environmental benefits of the technology, and pointed to impact of climate change on food production

News: Ugandan news source reports ag minister threatens to imprison fake seed, pesticide dealers during agricultural expo in Jinja

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental's passage of resolution requesting that Coca-Cola FEMSA provide certification that the High Fructose Corn Syrup used in its products are sourced from non-GMO materials

Report: USDA GAIN Report notes, on Feb. 4, Korea began enforcing biotech labeling requirements; notes ongoing exemption of mandatory biotech labeling for products that do not contain foreign DNA or protein

News: Pakistani newspaper reports representatives of cotton, maize, corn growers believe country could benefit financially and reduce pesticide usage by embracing biotech crops, highlights potential to increase yield to prepare for growing population

Commentary: Dhaka Tribune contributor quotes visiting Nobel Laureate, who rhetorically asks why children must suffer for anti-GMO activist agendas; counters that GMOs could still be threat for Bangladesh since 'real winners' will be big corporations

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news site reports Croatia bans GM crops but abstained from EU vote on GM maize authorizations; Croat Parliament Members, NGO officials object to abstention

News release: Testbiotech criticizes German agency for concluding not all plants produced using CRISPr-CAS technology must be regulated as GMOs, says opinion discounts other expert opinion and case in European Court of Justice

Commentary: ETC Group executive director writes in Europeanseed article that big agricultural mergers such as Bayer-Monsanto give cause for concern over world food security

News: Euronews reports Friends of the Earth campaigners demand the EU to reject Bayer purchase of Monsanto, call it "marriage made in hell"

News: French news site reports Parliamentary Office for Assessment of Scientific and Technological Choices says new biotechnologies are not GMOs, recommends more research on NBTs, says they have many applications for ag

Report: Review in Current Opinion in Biotechnology finds that bioavailability studies have demonstrated efficacy of several 'golden' crops in maintaining vitamin A status, presents current developments and areas that need further study

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mayan Regional Council calls on Supreme Court to "restore rule of law" by protecting their land and livelihoods from GM crops

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist notes Mexico imports a third of the corn it consumes, but its production is 38 percent lower than average; notes it could significantly increase production using GM maize

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Feed Navigator reports on development of omega-3 producing GM canola variety by Nuseed, a subsidiary of Australian company Nufarm, Nuseed is awaiting approval for commercialization in the US, Canada and Australia, as they are key canola growing regions

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 Delhi High Court had ruled that Monsanto should not have canceled a seed licensing agreement with a local marketer. In Africa, an International Institute of Tropical Agriculture researcher highlighted the potential of gene-edited crops in the region and called for a fresh debate on plant technologies.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Reuters and Indian news outlets reported on a Delhi High Court decision against Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (MMB) over a terminated seed licensing agreement with local marketer Nuziveedu Seeds. MMB had accused the local seed marketer of using its patented cotton seeds after the contract was canceled. However, the court ruled that MMB should not have canceled the license in the first place and was now required by law to reduce its trait fees. **See more**.
- Writing for InterPress Service, IITA Director General Nteranya Sanginga highlighted the potential of gene-editing in creating crop varieties tailored to the African region. Sanginga noted that new gene-editing tools allowed IITA to explore new crops with drought tolerance or improved nutrition and argued that these developments are changing the region's policy debate over GM crops. **See more**.

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North America

News: Houston Chronicle reports local officials considering being one of first U.S. locations using GE mosquitoes to curb the mosquito population; working with Oxitec, officials hope the GE mosquitos could provide another tool in the fight against Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses

Commentary: High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal columnist questions Cargill's involvement with the Non-GMO Project and certification that gives "tacit approval" of the organization's anti-GM stance despite Cargill's belief that GM foods are safe

Commentary: Intellectual property law firm analyzes draft Oregon bill that would allow farmers to sue GMO patent holders for trespass if a GMO is discovered on land without permission of its owner, opponents say bill stifles innovation and punishes patent holders for end user actions

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports pressure mounts to pass Ugandan biosafety bill; proponents believe once bill is passed, GMOs will solve country's hunger issues

Commentary: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture Director General Nteranya Sanginga writes

for Inter Press Service, highlighting potential for gene editing to contribute to sustainable agriculture, emphasizing importance of informed debate

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet editorial praises Nigerian Biosafety Management Act, highlighting importance of GMOs for boosting food security, especially in face of challenges presented by aflatoxin contamination and fall armyworm attacks, notes GMOs are safe for human consumption

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on Delhi High Court's ruling against Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (MMB) in its legal battle with Hyderabad-based Nuziveedu Seeds, finding that MMB should not have canceled its licensing contract, and that it now must reduce royalty payments in accordance with new Indian government policy

News: Indian media report on Delhi High Court ruling that Monsanto's termination of its sub-licence agreement with Nuziveedu Seeds was illegal and arbitrary, reinstating the agreement, and ordering reduction in trait fees per government policy

News: Times of India reports on Punjab Agricultural University's (PAU) development of two Bt cotton varieties whose seeds can be reused, enabling farmers to potentially save up to Rs 1,600 per acre

News: Bangladeshi finance news outlet reports on Nobel Laureate Sir Richard John Roberts' recent lecture at North South University (NSU), where he discussed importance of GMOs for agricultural growth and solving hunger problems in developing countries like Bangladesh

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on recent workshop organized by Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists (GNOBB) at Dhaka University, where Dr Abidur Rahman of Japan's Iwate University explained immense potential of CRISPR-Cas9 technology for speeding up breeding of stress and disease-tolerant plants

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: American Interest editorial welcomes failure of EU member states to block GM maize varieties up for authorization or renewal, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, argues that GMOs are safer for the environment than their non-GMO counterparts, as they require less pesticide use

Commentary: GenØK responds to EU renewal applications for GM corn varieties; claims glyphosate cropping systems present health, environmental risks and that none were assessed for "justifiability, social utility and sustainability"

Commentary: Russia's Sputnik reports former genetics director says country's GM ban will allow it to do without GMOs for next 50 to 100 years; another official says real GMO issue is West's use of agrochemicals on the crops

News: Croatian news site reports country's first product labeled "non-GMO" is released; notes Croatia bans GM cultivation but products from animals fed GMOs do require labels, and GM feed imports are allowed

News: Bloomberg reports Dow and DuPont's successful research portfolios were a roadblock in EU antitrust review, notes region is trying to encourage investments in research and development

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Productivity Commission recommends no labels for GM food, repeal GMO ban in states, eliminating Queensland's sugar industry regulations, general easing of agricultural restrictions without health, safety, or economic reason

Commentary: New Zealand sheep and beef farmer writes for local farming news outlet, voices opposition to introduction of GE technologies with goal of reducing farm animal emissions, arguing it will damage New Zealand's export market

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 activist response to the European Commission's decision to approve the merger between Dow and DuPont. A Brazilian NGO launched a new petition protesting the country's proposed changes to regulations on GMO labeling.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Activists in the U.S. and Europe issued statements and spoke to media outlets about their opposition to agricultural industry consolidation. The Guardian reported that Friends of the Earth had warned that the merger would undermine food security, noting that farmers will need greater seed variety to combat changing climate conditions. German environmentalists launched an open letter calling on the commission to reject this and future agricultural industry mergers. Meanwhile, the European Commission announced it had begun its review of ChemChina's proposed purchase of Syngenta. **See more on the Dow-DuPont decision**. **See more on the ChemChina-Syngenta review**.
- Brazil's Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor announced a new petition calling on the National Congress to reject a bill that would relax GMO labeling requirements. The group argued that consumers had a public health right to precise information on GMO ingredients and said that reducing labeling requirements could harm farmers who wanted to market their products as non-GMO. **See more**.
- Bloomberg reported on a wave of farmer criticism following Cargill Inc.'s decision to work with the Non-GMO Project on sourcing certified non-GMO ingredients for food manufacturers. The article quoted an Alberta-based farmer who said that Cargill was undermining farmers by supporting an activist group that promoted GMO fears. Cargill responded, saying that options for non-GMO certification were limited but that it did not support the Non-GMO Project's claim that there was no scientific consensus on GMO safety. **See more**.

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North America

News: Bloomberg reports that Cargill's partnership with Non-GMO Project drawing criticism from farmers, says Non-GMO Project works with unscientific anti-GMO activists

News release: Market research group says global market for agricultural biotechnology reached $29.2 billion in 2016, should reach $32.1 billion in 2017, $53.7 billion in 2022; markets analyzed were biotechnology tools, genomics enabled products, biologicals

News: EcoWatch reports on recent EU vote on GM maize authorizations, while a majority of member states voted no, the lack of qualified majority means the final decision rests with EU Commission, highlights calls from Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and other NGOs to reject authorization

Commentary: PLOS Synbio Community contributor promotes new Societal Risk Evaluation Scheme (SRES) model developed by Christopher Cummings and Jennifer Kuzma, designed as a tool to help regulators handle new synbio products; believes researchers should identify synbio topics needing more

public engagement

More North America items

Africa

Interview: Leadership Nigeria speaks with National Biotechnology Development Agency chief Lucy Ogbadu about country's efforts to develop high-performing crops, says biotechnology needed to diversify agriculture

News: Malawi news source reports on agricultural field day in Chitipa District where an agriculture minister praised farmers for adopting new technologies and Karonga Agriculture Development Division manager said his office is fighting fall armyworms by intensifying spraying of cypermethrin, deltamethrin

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on dispute between Monsanto and M. Prabhakara Rao of Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd regarding Bt cotton seed royalties, and support from Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and Monsanto's decision to withdraw application for approval of a new cotton variety

News: UK's The Times reports Japanese scientists are developing rice that flowers on demand, allowing farmers to better control the quality of the harvest, prolong growth and get a better yield

News: Pakistan news site reports textile, cotton industry groups call on government to establish safeguards on cotton crop from virus attacks, pests, use of uncertified seed; add only developers and licensees should be allowed to market GM seeds

More Asia items

Europe

News: EU Observer reports on former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's keynote speech at Forum for the Future of Agriculture in Brussels, where he noted that EU's stance on GMOs has a large impact elsewhere, highlighting recent rejection of shipments in nations suffering from famine

News release: European Commission head says it has approved the Dow-DuPont merger based on significant commitments the companies offered to meet competition concerns; EC adds competition essential for affordable prices, continued innovation

Campaign: German anti-GMO NGO coalition sends open letter asking EU Commission to stop series of agribusiness mergers, arguing they will unfairly concentrate the market, further problems with industrial agriculture

Campaign: Testbiotech joins federally-funded pilot project to collect information on socio-ecological risks associated with GMO cross-contamination of; will take closer look at GE oilseed rape and olive flies and plants and animals with gene drives

Announcement: Belgian environmental NGO Federation Inter-Environnement Wallonie announces upcoming agroecology training week from May 8-12, organized by new agroecology academy, Agrotopia

News release: Italian MEP Marco Affronte voices relief at Italy's vote against authorization of GM maize varieties at the EU level, following Minister Lorenzin's January vote in favor

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance reacts to recent vote on GM maize authorizations, spokesperson Bart Staes argued EU Commission cannot approve the varieties in question, as EU Parliament is against it, member states could not reach a qualified majority, and several of them have domestic bans

More Europe items

Latin America

Campaign: Brazilian consumer rights NGO launches petition against proposed bill to relax GMO labeling standards, arguing that labeling transgenics is a public health measure, and claiming that the bill violates rights of farmers seeking to grow GMO-free crops

News release: Brazilian ag ministry-affiliated ag research group launches two GM soybean cultivars with resistance to glyphosate and caterpillar pests; experiments show yield 8.7 percent higher than the average

Commentary: Chilean environmental group promotes Stop GE Trees visit to Chile, noting presentations conclude March 29, focus on showing transgenic trees aren't the solution to pests, disease, drought, other problems, hopes to correct misinformation

News: Argentinean news site reports national ag-tech institute announces plans, institutional support to introduce GM crops into the country; experts have been working on disease resistance, fiber quality

News: Mayan news outlet reports on Democratic Revolution Party's (PRD) request that Governor Alejandro Moreno Cárdenas expedite declaration of Campeche as a GM-free region, PRD's William Mena Flores voiced lack of confidence in government institutions, and called for punishment for illegal GM soy cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Writing in Hawke's Bay Today, Green Party candidate says local communities are fighting back against government efforts to restrict control over GMO cultivation

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 European Commission approval of a proposed merger between Dow Chemical and DuPont. European lawmakers also voted against approving three GM maize varieties for cultivation, though the vote fell short of a qualified majority.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Wire services and political news outlets reported that the European Commission approved a proposed merger between Dow Chemical and DuPont, pending the companies' sale of several of agricultural chemical divisions as well as the divestment of research and development activities. The European Competition Commission said that the agency was focused on ensuring price competition on existing pesticides and supporting innovation in future products. **See more**.
- A majority of European governments voted against the approval of three GM maize varieties for cultivation, though the vote fell short of the "qualified majority" needed to block the commercialization. The European Commission explained that the vote therefore was registered as a "no opinion" and would leave the commission with the ultimate authority to approve the crops. Advocacy groups throughout Europe called for the commission to vote with the majority countries and stop the authorizations. **See more**.

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North America

News: Monsanto, Syngenta technology leads share seed innovation projects with Iowa Farmer Today, note plans to expand insect traits, improve herbicide gene stacking, explore RNAi

Commentary: GMO Answers' Commodity Crop Series posts profile on cotton, reports cotton production has doubled since 1950 due largely to improved varieties resistant to insects, herbicides

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity releases new reports outlining advocacy concerns about seed policy legislation in the region; says current approaches criminalize small-scale farming

Commentary: Nigerian environmental news outlet publishes Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey's recent speech at Media Training on Biosafety event, he claims GMOs do not boost yields and reduce pesticide use, points to problem of herbicide-resistant weeds, and evidence linking glyphosate to cancer

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Kenya University Biotechnology Consortium (Kubico) researchers' accusation that Agriculture Cabinet secretary Willy Bett is misguided in his opposition to proposed GM

field trials, noting that the trials will be safely conducted, and questioning whether he is aware of his own ministry's regulations

More Africa items

Asia

News: Japanese chemical industry newspaper reports Tokyo University study found GM crop imports brought $1.8 trillion yen in economic benefits

News: Press Trust of India reports on Navdanya's welcoming of Competition Commission of India's request for a new application for proposed merger between Bayer and Monsanto, Vandana Shiva called the move a great victory for Indian farmers and citizens

News: Press Trust of India - RSS-affiliated group sends letter requesting ag minister lower price of Bt cotton to relieve farmers suffering low yields of the crop

More Asia items

Europe

News: BBC reports European Commission has given green light to Dow Chemical, DuPont merger; DuPont has agreed to sell off global pesticide business to allay fears of reduced competition

News: Italian environmental news source reports Italian consumer groups praise MEP decision to oppose EU GM maize authorizations, claiming position aligns with Italian public concerns that GMOs will threaten biodiversity, organic production

Announcement: French Green Party amplifies EU appeals committee vote against GM maize commercialization, quotes Michele Rivasi and Jose Bove

News: Italian environmental news source reports Italian consumer groups praise MEP decision to oppose EU GM maize authorizations, claiming position aligns with Italian public concerns that GMOs will threaten biodiversity, organic production

News release: Greenpeace Europe says that, although qualified majority was not reached, most countries reject GM maize cultivation; calls on the European Commission to instead support 'ecological farming'

Announcement: Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) warns that European Commission could approve GM maize cultivation, says Germany's abstention on the vote eroded trust in the agriculture ministry

News release: German organic food promotion group criticizes country's representative for abstaining from European vote on EU maize cultivation, says lack of qualified majority could mean crops are approved

Announcement: Friends of the Earth Europe responds to EU appeals committee vote on GM maize authorizations, says pressure will be on Juncker to side with the majority's rejection

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mayan news outlet reports on recent fifth meeting of Indigenous Consultation on GM soy cultivation; says agreements included guaranteed community role in proposals for monitoring illegal GM soy cultivation, but participants were frustrated by lack of high level officials in attendance

Commentary: Latin American news outlet contributor believes Mexican indigenous communities' defense of native maize varieties from contamination by GMOs serves as a valuable example for the rest of Latin America, amplifies recent report by Mexican NGO Union of Scientists Committed to Society

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Nufarm subsidiary Nuseed's new GM canola variety, designed to provide a sustainable, land-based source of omega-3, to reduce pressure on fish stocks, it would be the first GM canola variety with output traits rather than productivity traits

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 27, 2017
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 4 04:13 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Various industry groups, media and researchers effectively defended the use of biotechnology and conventional farming practices in traditional and social media amid new advocacy campaigns alleging pesticide (glyphosate) risk and industry collusion claims and Cargill's announcement that it will use Non-GMO Project services to verify additional non-GM ingredients. These pieces, plus several high-profile commentaries highlighting the lack of standards among today's journalists and academic studies, are featured in this week's Stories Worth Sharing and What's Trending sections.

Trending topics also highlight EU regulatory efforts seeking a full ban on neonics due to concerns about risks to bees. Meanwhile, on the other side of the pond, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a report finding the number of bee colonies and honey production has increased since 2015.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Green America

Green America was founded in 1982 by fair trade activist Paul Freundlich and originally known as Co-op America. It has close ties to the organic and natural products industries and claims some 100,000 - 270,000 members who claim they support the creation and maintenance of a "green economy."

Green America hosts the

Stories Worth Sharing

Kevin Folta: Asserts U.S. Right to Know advances agenda by using public records requests to obtain emails from academic scientists, selectively passes stories to lazy journals

Stephan Neidenbach: Addresses bogus anti-biotech claims made by Center for Biological Diversity in open letter

David Tribe: Explains all foods, regardless of source, contain natural mutations; highlights Canadian literature review in response to GM plant concerns raised during a local town hall

Hank Campbell: Contends "Green 20" political NGO "RICO-like" efforts suppress scientific dissent via disparagement of academic relationships with private sector research and innovation

Wackes Seppi: Criticizes 29 European Parliamentarians for signing letter targeting European Commissioner Jean-Claude Juncker urging him not to reauthorize glyphosate and Global 2000 glyphosate report

Amanda Zaluckyj: Argues Cargill's partnership with Non-GMO Project hurts its farmer suppliers, Non-GMO Project's roots go deep into anti-GMO movement

GMO Inside initiative and has sponsored a wide range of consumer boycott and business protest campaigns targeting GMOs, including campaigns against General Mills (Cheerios), Chobani yogurt, Whole Foods Markets, Girl Scout Cookies, infant formula and other initiatives.

LEARN MORE about Green America.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Alex Berezow: Criticizes Cargill's recent announcement of partnership with Non-GMO Project, pointing to widespread backlash on Twitter

USFRA CEO Randy Krotz: Maintains food system flourishing, not broken; offers GMO crops as example of technology that makes farms more efficient

USDA statistics indicate U.S. honey production increased 3 percent in 2016, number of honeybee colonies increased 4 percent

Mary Lee Chin: Justifies consulting work with Monsanto; calls for combination of best practices to meet food demands, saying "conventional farming will not kill you" in response to critical Mic piece

Steven Savage: Promotes recent Science Advances study on development of aflatoxin-resistant GM corn variety, highlights severe health risks of consuming aflatoxin-contaminated food

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

EU member states vote today on whether to approve three GM strains of maize produced by Monsanto, Dow-Pioneer and Syngenta

Austrian NGO Global 2000 report "Glyphosate and Cancer - Purchased science" details alleged industry influence over glyphosate assessment and regulation in Europe

European Commission submits draft regulations proposing full ban on neonics based on risk assessments by the European Food Safety Authority that expressed concerns about effects on bee colonies

Cargill announces use of Non-GMO Project services to verify additional non-GM ingredients, drawing response from both sides of the debate

Calendar highlights

March 27-28	March 28	March 28
Chemical Watch's annual Safer Chemicals in Products (San Francisco, California)	2017 International Conference on Biotechnology and Agriculture Engineering (Osaka, Japan)	Forum for the Future of Agriculture (Brussels, Belgium)
March 28	**March 28**	**April 1-4**
International Bee Conference (Berlin, Germany)	Health and pesticides conference hosted by director of NGO Generations Futures (Strasbourg, France)	Endocrine Society annual meeting and expo (Orlando, Florida)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Mar. 24-26, 2017
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 8:41 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 commentary on Cargill's announcement it will use the Non-GMO Project to verify ingredients. Italian ministers announced they would vote against approving three GM maize varieties in an upcoming European Union committee meeting. The Maori Party announced it reached a deal to overhaul the Resource Management Act.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Monsanto's Vance Crowe, bloggers Stephan Neidenbach and Amanda Zaluckyj, and the American Council on Science and Health's Alex Berezow **criticized Cargill's use of Non-GMO Project service**s to verify non-GM ingredients, saying the move essentially funds the anti-GMO movement. A Cargill statement indicated the move was solely for marketing purposes in response to consumer demand. A GMWatch editorial criticized the responders as being "full of hate." **See more**.
- Several Italian news sites reported **Italy's ministers agreed to vote against approval for three GM maize crops** in a European Appeal Committee meeting on Monday. The ministers drew criticism when they voted in favor of approval during a previous vote on the issue despite GM cultivation being banned in Italy. Italy's approval and a German abstention caused the vote to fall short of a qualified majority, keeping the application alive for a decision by the European Commission, which has been more open to biotech crops. **See more**.
- After the Maori Party **announced a deal to overhaul the Resource Management Act**, party co-leader Marama Fox said they "**had not put aside concerns" regarding GE-free zones**. Later, an ACT political party release criticized environment minister Nick Smith, saying the deal "betrays" National Party supporters, calling it "an affront to property rights and democratic principles." **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: IPWatchdog contributor says Oregon bill allowing property owners to sue GMO patent holders is driven by 'hysteria' over GM creeping bentgrass from field trials

News: Wall Street Journal reports ChemChina's Syngenta purchase fuels Chinese GMO fears, made worse by citizens' distrust of food industry due to past scandals

Commentary: BizPac Review columnist says Whole Foods downturn due to increased competition offering lower prices, but also criticized for not taking stronger stance against GMOs, GM labeling, pesticides, hormones

Review: EcoWatch founder recommends 7 environmental documentaries to watch, including Neil DeGrasse Tyson's "Food Evolution"

News: Western Producer reports American corn breeder says consumer concern about safety of GM food stems from lack of understanding about plant breeding; adds genetic engineering just the newest tool

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports COMESA official says Uganda's inability to pass biosafety law is a setback for 18 other countries in COMESA, but adds that biotech crop cultivation in Africa "is a matter of time"

News: Ugandan news site reports Prime Minister Rugunda says NGOs, politicians spread false information to block national biotechnology, biosafety bill for Uganda

News: UK's Agrimoney reports USDA officials say South African corn production unaffected by fall armyworm as most varieties are GE and government moved quickly to allow pesticides

News: South African news source quotes Biowatch manager Lawrence Mkhaliphi who says a 'rapid transition to agro-ecological farming methods' is the way to eradicate the armyworm pest

News: Zambian news outlet reports on Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo's dismay that in spite of several pieces of legislation on GMOs and capacity built for GE, there is a lot of misinformation on the topic, noting her ministry, through the National Biosafety Authority, has launched a public awareness initiative

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports state of Rajasthan ag minister opposes GM mustard, but agricultural experts argue the GM crop is way to increase productivity, denying technology to farmers is "injustice"

News: Press Trust of India reports on Competition Commission of India's request for re-submission of application for approval of proposed Bayer-Monsanto deal, specific reasons behind CCI's request are unknown

News: Local news source reports the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) will release three more Bt brinjal varieties 'infused with a pest-resistant gene'

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on recent workshop where speakers recommended commercial cultivation of Bt eggplant, after making sure all precautions for human and environmental protection have been put in place, noting farmers are showing growing interest in the technology as it reduces pesticide use

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: FIAN Belgium calls on activist NGOs to sign appeal in opposition to upcoming Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) on March 28, claiming industrial ag model with GMOs and pesticides is not the solution for feeding the world, promotes rally to protest FFA

Commentary: Roberto Defez of Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources - CNR of Naples writes for Italian news outlet, criticizing Italy for maintaining its GM crop ban while voting to approve three GM maize varieties at the EU level, criticizes spread of fear around GMOs and glyphosate

Commentary: Italian News outlet contributor voices support for gene editing, pointing to its increased precision and noting that no foreign genes are inserted, hopes the technology will help Italy get around its "stupid" GMO ban

News: Swiss news site reports National Science Committee refuses to allow GMO research on varieties with resistant genes; committee says decision based on too much environmental risk

Commentary: British business site posts opposing views on Princess Anne's support for GM crops; quotes Adam Smith Institute executive director and Chasing Rainbows author Tim Worstall

Study: European Food Safety Authority risk assessment of Syngenta GM maize variety, with focus on subcombination of stacked events, finds that it and its subcombinations are as safe as their conventional counterparts for human health and the environment

Commentary: Editorial in The Guardian examines exciting potential of gene editing, believes decisions on its use should not be left just to scientists and the companies funding them, points to significant regulatory challenges ahead

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mayans say Mexican court will not stop Monsanto from planting GM soy in region, which they say threatens honey production; Greenpeace says agrochemicals are contaminating the water

News: La Jornada Maya reports on Yucatan-based activists who presented before country's Supreme Court on Mar. 22; groups say current process has allowed illegal GM soy cultivation despite required consultations

News: La Jornada reports Mayans claim Monsanto plants and sells GM soy despite court order against cultivating the crop

Commentary: Bolivian news site columnist says to achieve Bolivia's goals for increasing agricultural production in midst of climate change, farmers must use GM crops to fight weeds, insects, drought; notes Nobel Prize winners say biotech crops are safe

News release: Greenpeace announces report release, claims 30 links between Argentine government and agribusinesses, resulting in seed law proposal that favors the businesses, does not address farmer, indigenous, or academic concerns

News release: Greenpeace Argentina says new law, promoted by the government, aims to limit the free use of seeds for the benefit of large companies, didn't address requests from family farmers, peasants, indigenous people, academics, universities

News: Mexican news site reports Mayan representatives criticize Supreme Court's "indifference" to enforcing its own order against GM soy cultivation in Quintana Roo

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: ACT New Zealand political party says Environment Minister Nick Smith struck deal allowing Maori Party to rewrite Resource Management Act, says it "betrays" National Party supporters

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on concerns about Resource Management Act reforms bill's passage through second reading, following Maori Party vote in favor, co-leader Marama Fox noted the party has not dismissed concerns about GE-free regions, garnering criticism from Ikaroa-Rawhiti MP Meka Whaitiri

News release: New Zealand Maori Party announces it has reached a deal to support Research Management Act Reforms, heading off rival bid by United Future and the Act Party, including framework for protecting iwi rights, after previously holding out over concerns about local councils' restrictions on GMOs

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on University of Western Australia (UWA) researcher Dave Edwards' recent paper arguing that Australia's current definition of GMOs is hindering development of gene editing, which would help meet consumer demand and address challenges

presented by climate change

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Mar. 23, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:33:00 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the European Academies Science Advisory Council releasing a report on gene editing, making regulatory recommendations. Commentary continued on Princess Anne's statements supporting biotechnology. The European Union Green Party announced its opposition to a proposal to authorize a GM maize variety for import.

Consolidated highlights include:

- **EASAC issued a report on gene editing**, examining potential benefits, risks, and ethical issues, recommending trait-based regulation rather than process-based regulations. The report also recommends gene-edited products not be regulated as GMOs. **See more**.
- Anti-biotech **NGO GM Freeze and the European Union Green Party criticized Princess Anne** for her comments supporting GMOs. One UK news site contributor believed Prince Charles and Princess Anne are wrong about GMOs. **See more**.
- The EU Green Party issued a news release **opposing the European Commission's proposal to authorize a Syngenta maize variety**, which they claim could allow "more than 20 variations" to be imported into the EU. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Kevin Folta criticizes US Right to Know's continued assault on academics and "lazy" journalists' willingness to print the story they want told, points to recent piece on Food.Mic pointing to allegations of a connection between Monsanto and dietician Mary Lee Chin, calls on journalists to follow up with targeted scientists

News: U.S. news magazine reports University of Arizona researcher finds altering RNAi prevents production of deadly aflatoxin production in corn, could save 16 million tons of corn each year in Asia, Africa

News: Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting follows cycle of cotton, including issues growing GM cotton in Burkina Faso, notes farmers turned to GM cotton to avoid pesticides, notes Monsanto's GM cotton declined in Burkina Faso and was phased out

Video: Gaia's Beyond Belief with George Noory features Jeffrey Smith as guest, Smith reiterates claims about GM crops and herbicide use, outlines plan to put power back in hands of consumers

Commentary: The Hill runs op-ed by analyst from Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy listing eight questions for Sonny Perdue's confirmation hearing as USDA secretary, including what is replacement plan for WOTUS to ensure clean water for rural areas, how USDA will help farmers cope with climate change

More North America items

Africa

News: Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting follows cycle of cotton, including issues growing GM cotton in Burkina Faso, notes farmers turned to GM cotton to avoid pesticides, notes Monsanto's GM cotton declined in Burkina Faso and was phased out

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Uganda Human Rights Network's (UHRC) concerns about biosafety bill, questioning proposal to divide the country into different zones to accomodate GM crops, noting lack of uniformity in public preference, including in designated GM areas

More Africa items

Asia

News: Korean news site reports local council adopts resolution supporting GM labeling by Korean Parliament

News: Agence France-Presse reports China continues GMO research, ChemChina buying Syngenta in effort to feed its people despite hostility from public due to past food scandals

More Asia items

Europe

News release: UK NGO GM Freeze announces it has lodged a formal complaint, as part of group of 33 organizations, objecting to proposed open air field trials of GM potatoes, claiming they are "untested, unwanted and unnecessary," claims the potato's stacked traits increase risk of unexpected interactions with unpredictable outcomes

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance voices opposition to EU Commission proposal to authorize Syngenta's new GM maize variety, which they argue amounts to authorizing 20 different varieties, some of which do not yet exist, due to combination of five different traits

News: Agence France-Presse reports country banned GM cultivation but imports GM soy for feed, claims "no consensus" on health impact; French animal producers complain they pay more for non-GM feed, increases price of their livestock

News: Dutch food industry news outlet reports on Environment MEPs' opposition to EU Commission plans to authorize an herbicide and pest resistant GM maize variety, pointing to lack of data on various sub-combinations of the variety that would also be authorized, and calling for reform of GMO authorization process

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine legal news site reports federal court dismisses case seeking ban on GMOs, glyphosate; judge notes agencies found no significant environmental, health damage from GM crops or glyphosate

News: Paraguayan news site reports Ministry of Agriculture approves GM maize varieties for commercial release

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Stuff reports that government, Maori Party have reached a deal to pass Resource Management Act reforms; unclear whether changes have been made to GMO regulations

Commentary: Sheep breeder, New Zealand news site contributor says decision on GMOs should be made at national level; notes cross-pollination risk could come from outside local districts, making GMO-free claims "bloody stupid"

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Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8 57:17 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 statements included a BBC interview with **British Princess Anne,** who told the news outlet that **GM crops had 'real benefits**.' Also in Europe, Hungarian news sites reported that the country was considering a more relaxed standard for labeling GM ingredients. U.S. activists called on supporters to sign petitions and work to block the President's nominee for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Consolidated highlights include:

- Following an interview with the BBC, UK media outlets and international news wire services reported that Britain's **Princess Anne had noted the potential benefits of GM crop use.** These news outlets noted that Princess Anne's brother, Prince Charles, has been a long-standing opponent of biotechnology in agriculture and is a patron of the anti-GMO advocacy group the Soil Association. The Princess added that opposition to the technology was 'not practical.' **See more**.
- **Hungarian** news outlets reported that the country's **agriculture ministry was considering whether to loosen the standard for required labeling of GM ingredients**. The current standard requires labels on anything containing 0.1% or more GM-developed ingredients; the new rules would raise that standard to 0.9%. The Hungarian Society of Conservationists was quoted opposing the change, warning that the new standard could violate consumers' right to avoid GM foods. **See more**.
- U.S. advocacy groups **Friends of the Earth and Food Policy Action both issued calls for supporters to oppose President Trump's nominee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture**. Food Policy Action warned that the nominee was too close to agricultural business interests. Friends of the Earth said the nomination of Sonny Perdue would enable the department's "takeover" by corporate interests. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Steven Savage writes for Forbes, promoting recent Science Advances study on development of aflatoxin-resistant GM corn variety, highlights severe health risks of consuming aflatoxin-contaminated food, points to potential application in various crops

News release: Friends of the Earth says Sonny Perdue wrong choice to head USDA, argues he would further open door to Big Ag takeover in Washington; NGO asserts it will continue pressuring USDA to safeguard pollinators, fight for clean food grown without synthetic hormones, routine antibiotics, GMOs, toxic pesticides

Campaign: Food Policy Action urges people to tell the Senate to reject Trump's nomination of Sonny Perdue for USDA Secretary, says Perdue supports factory farming and denies climate change

Commentary: Mic food writer uses USRTK-supplied emails via FOIA to examine Monsanto's relationship with dietician Mary Lee Chin regarding GMO outreach, questioning whether paid consultants should make ties more publicly known; report includes mention of Chin's correspondence with Jon Entine

Commentary: Cape Cod news site columnist says recolonizing mixed forests with blight-proof GM chestnut trees bodes well for forest health; applauds scientists at State University of New York

More North America items

Africa

News: Farmer writes for Ugandan news site, amplifies Steven Cerier article noting African countries are poised to adopt GMOs to increase yields, but false claims impede progress despite no credible evidence that GMOs harm health

News: Tunisian news site reports US Agriculture Department documents US plans to increase GM soy imports into Tunisia, which has no legislation governing GMOs; increased imports will meet growing demand

More Africa items

Asia

News release: CropLife Asia issues statement on importance of conservation practices and biotech in observance of World Water Day, highlighting benefits of herbicide use and no-till practices in reducing agricultural water consumption, as well as development of drought-tolerant biotech crops

News: Science and Development Network reports on Monsanto's Global Health and Nutrition Outreach director Milton Stokes' recent statements against mandatory GMO labeling in the Philippines, which he argues will unnecessarily scare consumers and raise food prices, voicing support of voluntary labeling

News: Associated Press reports on American Chamber of Commerce in China's request for relaxed import restrictions on GM seeds and other biotech products, highlighting complaints that Beijing is blocking market access, the Chamber's Agriculture Forum co-char and Monsanto executive Yong Gao noted it will boost the whole industry up

Commentary: UK news site columnist says China has modern agricultural machinery and biotechnology among its priorities; GM food crops less common due to public fear, but this likely to change

News: Iranian TV news site reports rather than ban GM foods, Iranian government supports organic food; notes biotech supporters say GM food risks remain theoretical, no evidence to show harm

More Asia items

Europe

News: UK media amplify Princess Anne's recent statement in support of GMOs, highlighting criticism from Green MPs

News: BBC reports on Princess Anne's recent statements in support of GMOs, she noted there are not many downsides to the technology, but that there are many benefits, she argued that avoiding GMOs "just in case" is not a practical argument

News: Reuters reports on Princess Anne's recent statements about benefits of GM crops, in stark contrast to opinion of her brother, Prince Charles, who has described GMOs as an "environmental disaster," Princess Anne noted accepting the technology is important for "producing food of the right value"

Commentary: Danish news site guest columnist and researcher says regulatory frameworks for GM crops must be able to accommodate scientific innovation as well as the public's skepticism towards GMO foods

Commentary: Hungarian news outlet contributor criticizes Ag Ministry proposal to relax GMO labeling requirements, noting the increased tolerance to 0.9 percent GM content will mean that consumers inevitably end up eating GMOs, which he claims violates basic rights to physical and mental health

News: Hungarian news outlet reports on Ag Ministry's proposed relaxation of GMO labeling requirements, moving the labeling threshold from 0.1 percent GM content to 0.9 percent, Hungarian Society of Conservationists opposes the move

News: Russian news site reports Russian monitoring agency will study GMOs' impact on health, environment; claims other studies detected that biotech crops had health, environmental impacts; will show "Genetic Roulette" film on TV, interview Jeffery Smith live on March 23

News: Agra Europe reports European Parliament environment committee asks EC not to adopt proposals to renew EU cultivation authorization for GM maize; "no opinion" outcome expected during March 27 vote

Commentary: Italy-based NGO Slow Food says EU reps need to recognize that 'citizens do not want GMOs in Europe'; launches appeal to reject GM maize authorizations during March 27 vote

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian radio news site notes "Transgenic Crops" book claims more than 750 studies show GMOs, pesticides negatively impact health, environment, but says studies are overlooked by GMO promoters

News: Agencia EFE reports Princess Anne argues in favor of GM crops, says avoiding them "just in case" isn't practical, and it makes sense to continue improving crops

News release: Brazilian ag company held technical course to offer cotton training for farmers and local industry professionals with aim to bring new technologies, herbicide resistant cotton, to state producers

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports Nufarm expects to commercialize GM canola to produce omega-3 by 2019

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Mar. 21, 2017
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:41 53 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 news that a majority in the European Parliament had voted to reject the importation of several GM maize varieties. Brazil's agriculture committee could vote as early as Wednesday, Mar. 22 on whether to loosen the country's labeling requirements on GM foods. In Turkey, local news outlets reported that GM soy had been detected in bread.

Consolidated highlights include:

- In a news release, the Greens/EFA reported that a **majority of the European Parliament had votes against authorizing the importation of several GM maize strains**. The group warned that safety data on the varieties, which include stacked-trait varieties, was not adequate; the issue will go before an appeals committee scheduled to meet on Mar. 27. **See more**.
- Brazil's Senate issued a statement indicating that the Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (CRA) may vote on **reforming the country's transgenic labeling requirements** as early as Wednesday (March 22). The proposed reforms would remove the yellow "T" icon and replace it with a label indicating that the product contains GM ingredients. **See more**.
- Turkish news outlet Hurriyet, acting on a tip from a food engineer, reported that **GM soy had been discovered in bread** imported into the country. The news prompted a statement from the Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, which reaffirmed that GM foods were only allowed in animal feed in the country and not in products intended for human consumption. **See more**.
- Prominent U.S. news outlet Newsweek amplified **University of Arizona research on how to prevent aflatoxin** development in corn. The article noted that aflatoxin is a significant health problems in developing countries, where advanced maize storage systems aren't always available, and quoted one of the researchers who worried that consumer resistance to the genetic engineering process could prevent its commercialization. **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: Newsweek reports on Arizona Genomics Institute research on GM corn that is resistant to developing aflatoxin, highlights severe health impacts of consuming food contaminated with aflatoxin, especially in developing nations

Commentary: International Food Information Council employee honors National Ag Day by raising awareness of the safety, benefits of GM foods, says biotechnology has positive impact on environment by growing more food on less land

Interview: Agrologist and industry consultant Rob Saik tells Successful Farming he is making a GMO-focused movie to help educate consumers about a technology he trusts, argues farmers have a role to promote ag technologies to the public

Commentary: EWG's "Planet Trump" blog lists 10 questions for president's nominee to head USDA, Sonny Perdue, including how he will address farm pollution of drinking water, whether he supports cuts to USDA programs to clean up rural water supplies, stance on GMO labeling

Event: Tulane University to host "Soil Not Oil" lecture by Vandana Shiva on fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture (March 23)

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Business Day reports National Biosafety Management Agency scientists have begun to analyze selected store products suspected to contain GM ingredients, calls it a focus on consumer safety

Commentary: Writing in EnviroNews Nigeria, Nigerian anti-GMO group director Nnimmo Bassey reacts to research scientist's column questioning his anti-GM stance, arguing his refusal to worship government agencies' support of a failed technology does not make him anti-patriotic

Commentary: Writing in EnviroNews Nigeria, research scientist Dr. Hannah Nnadi criticizes anti-GMO activist Nnimmo Bassey for efforts to discredit government agencies trying to improve Nigeria through biotechnology, calls out errors in his claims

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett's statement that Kenya is not yet ready for open GM crop field trials, arguing that there is no mechanism in place to prevent cross-pollination and contamination of non-GM crops

Commentary: Senegalese news outlet contributor examines both sides of GMO debate, highlights environmental benefits such as reduced pesticide use, amplifies sustainable ag organizations' concerns about coexistence with non-GM crops, notes fear has replaced legitimate scientific debate

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor responds to criticism of her recent article on problems with GMOs, points to Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development's analysis of 750 studies which found that there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, as well UN rapporteur report on dangers of pesticides

News: Indonesian news site reports official from Lamongan attended CropLife Pan-Asian farmer event in Philippines to promote improved corn variety developed in his region, says seeds are ready to enter the export market, expects adoption from neighboring nations

News: Reuters - American Chamber of Commerce ag group co-chairman and Monsanto China president says China decision to approve fewer GM crop imports hurts trade, hampers launch of new products globally

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Greens-EFA announce that the a majority of the European Parliament has voted against authorizing new GM maize varieties for import, citing lack of safety data; decision now goes to appeals committee

Announcement: European Commission Directorate General for Health and Food Safety posts agenda for March 27 appeal committee meeting, group will review GM maize authorizations

News: Dutch news outlet reports on US government approval of three GM potato varieties by JR Simplot, developed using gene editing techniques, notes Wageningen UR has developed a similar variety, but that it cannot be released due to Europe's ban on GMOs

News: Bloomberg BNA reports UN rules for EU to amend legislation to allow individuals, groups to challenge EU environmental decisions in EU Court of Justice; notes non-binding recommendation could impact decisions on GMOs, pesticides

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM argues that ISAAA data on GM crop adoption are inconsistent with USDA and FAO data, pointing to discrepancies in data on GM cotton in Pakistan and Sudan

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (CRA) must vote on proposed bill to reduce GMO labeling requirements, the bill requires disclosure when over one percent of the product contains GMOs, and eliminates the yellow triangle symbol, replacing it with text labels

News release: Maya Regional Council of Bacalar reiterates opposition to Monsanto's GM soy in the region, prior to upcoming Supreme Court hearing, highlighting health and environmental risks of associated pesticide use, and threat to beekeepers' livelihoods

Commentary: ETC Group researcher Silvia Ribeiro writes for Mexican news outlet, amplifying recent UN rapporteur report on health and environmental dangers of pesticide use, notes the report provides context for current struggle of indigenous communities in the Yucatan Peninsula against GM soy cultivation

News: Mexican economy news outlet reports on producer and Protransgenics Alliance member Pedro Ortiz's explanation of Mexico's potential to increase yellow maize production by up to five million tons in the near future using GM seeds, significantly reducing reliance on imports

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on new Western Australian Ag Minister Alannah MacTiernan's stance on GMOs, MacTiernan noted WA will defer to federal government regulations on GMOs, explaining that GM canola is probably "here to stay"

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Mar. 20, 2017
Date: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:02:44 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 include a new campaign by British anti-GMO activists. In Bolivia, agriculture groups continued to stress the importance of liberalizing the country's biotechnology regulations.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Anti-biotechnology NGO Beyond GM, writing for an organic industry publication, emphasized the need for Britain's chefs and restaurant workers to take the lead on resisting GM foods and crops. Activist Pat Thomas previewed a new outreach campaign to gain insights into how food workers perceive GMOs, highlighting the importance of resisting so-called "new" GMOs developed via synthetic biology and other new plant breeding techniques. **See more** .
- In Bolivia, news outlets continued to report on the government's decision to import GM maize following a season of drought and insect infestations. Local reports noted that farming groups in the country, including the Agricultural Chamber of the East (CAO), had called on regulators to allow GM crop cultivation in order to meet counter the country's environmental pressures. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: American Society of Plant Biologists' president warns against members ignoring White House's anti-science attitudes; encourages members to show value of science, clarify misinterpretations

News: Futurism reports CRISPR gene editing technology has applications for improving agriculture, selecting traits for animals; notes FDA regulations block gene editing to cure pet diseases

News release: Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation releases new report on agricultural research breakthroughs; calls for increased federal support and notes USDA research receives only half of authorized funding

Commentary: Global Harvest Initiative executive, writing in The Hill, urges increased funding in federal budget for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative; notes public investment in research has declined 6 percent since 2000

Commentary: "Food Babe" Vani Hari dismisses arguments that organic food is an expensive scam, amplifies recent EU Parliament report on benefits of organic as well as UN rapporteur report on dangers of pesticides, compares anti-organic messaging to anti-GMO labeling movement

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director General Rufus Ebegba's announcement of partnership with media to improve public awareness about GMOs, especially regarding safety and benefits of the technology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports Indian Council of Agricultural Research director sees GM crops as pathway to increasing food production, improving food safety, boosting economic, social situations of farmers

News: Agrow reports Agricultural Academy of Japan calling for more field trials of GM crops to demonstrate technology advantages to farmers

News: Indonesian news site reports Monsanto Indonesia president says company plans to make GM corn available in Indonesia and throughout Asia Pacific region, adding GM corn can produce nearly double yield of traditional corn

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on new export opportunities for the nation in GM maize deals with Monsanto and Syngenta, as Southern Thailand and the Philippines have not yet adopted the technology

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: Director of anti-GMO group, writing in organic trade magazine, launches campaign to collect restaurant workers' and public's views on GM food in restaurants; warns against new types of GM foods

News: European Seed magazine reports on successful completion of recent UC Davis professional certificate program, European Plant Breeding Academy (EPBA), in Almeria, Spain, where students and instructors were hosted by University of Almeria, Monsanto Vegetable Seeds and Rijk Zwaan Ibérica

Report: Report in GM Crops & Food examines need for revision of EU biotech regulatory process, advocating product-based risk assessments rather than process-based, and arguing against regulating products of new breeding techniques as GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on farmers' call on government to approve more transgenic seeds to help boost yields, Agricultural Chamber of the East (CAO) noted it will be impossible for Bolivia to compete with other nations without biotech crops, highlights current high levels of pesticide use on maize

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Monsanto Argentina President Juan Farinati's recent statements in context of Expoagro in San Nicolas, he noted that now is the moment for new agriculture in Argentina, highlighting importance of the seed law to promote innovation and increase choices for producers

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database	Events calendar	Bonus Eventus community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 20, 2017
Date: Monday, March 20, 2017 4:02:52 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

The European Chemicals Agency's announcement that it does not consider glyphosate to be a carcinogen adds to a consensus among regulators in the United States, Germany, Canada, Australia and elsewhere, along with the European Food Safety Authority and the World Health Organization. That announcement last week is featured prominently in several of this week's Stories Worth Sharing.

Other pieces examine the scaremongering behind Environmental Working Group's annual "Dirty Dozen" list, a misleading bee-centered campaign from General Mills and the prospects of Bt maize helping Kenyans avoid armyworm issues that have hit other areas of Africa hard.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the Bonus Eventus Community page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply 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: Stacy Malkan

Stacy Malkan is the media director for U.S. Right to Know and former campaign consultant for the California Prop 37 initiative seeking mandatory GMO food labeling.

Malkan's campaigns include using public records filings to smear public university researchers who have written

Stories Worth Sharing

Andrew Porterfield: European Chemicals Agency joins growing consensus finding glyphosate to be safe

Steven Savage: What's really dirty about Environmental Working Group "Dirty Dozen" is Big Organic's marketing scare tactics

David Zaruk: Commissioner Andriukaitis must be a leader, stand up for science showing - again - that glyphosate is safe

Iida Ruishalme: How I went from "Monsanto is pure evil" to questioning my defense of organic farming

Alex Berezow: New York Times' Danny Hakim using "distorted information" to drive opposition to glyphosate, GMOs

Amanda Zaluckyj: Honey Nut Cheerios bee campaign seems "innocent enough," actually spreads misinformation about bee population

Kenyan scientists see Bt maize as having potential to prevent armyworm issues plaguing southern Africa

Royal Society president's speech highlights potential of gene editing, biofortified crops

New Zealand farming editor: Pro-organic Safe Food Campaign ignores

favorably on plant biotechnology issues. She recently claimed that corporate agribusiness and the chemical industry are engaged with independent academics in propaganda campaigns masquerading as sound science.

LEARN MORE about Malken.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

use of "dangerous" chemicals that go unregulated on organic farms

Veterinarian: Discovery of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in cave 1,000 feet underground should discourage critics from jumping to conclusions about use in livestock

Nicholas Staropoli: Embracing next-generation GMOs would "revolutionize the local food movement"

Hank Campbell: Claims that pesticides are lowering sperm count in French men disputable as pesticide use declines

National Pork Board member: Collaboration between government, farmers, veterinarians improving antibiotic use stewardship

"Food Evolution" documentary screened at Washington, D.C., film festival

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Chemicals Agency review determines glyphosate does not meet criteria to be deemed carcinogenic

Conservation groups ask Supreme Court to deny Trump administration's request to scrap briefing schedule on jurisdictional case

U.S. Government Accountability Office recommends FDA be required to set antibiotic use durations for food animals, revise Veterinary Feed Directive

Unsealed documents allege collusion between Monsanto and U.S. EPA over International Agency for Research on Cancer glyphosate review

Industry groups ask U.S. government to delay decision on bumblebee's endangered species status until January; action due this week

Calendar highlights

March 20-30	March 20-24	March 21
Pesticide Action Week (Week of Alternatives to Pesticides) in Europe	Convention on Biological Diversity Asia-Pacific Workshop on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms	"Partnering for Growth" biotech forum focused on CRISPR technology (Iowa)
March 21	**March 22**	**March 22**
Forbes "The Fight for the Fork" mixing bowl event in New York City	Pope Francis Vatican address marking World Water Day	U.S. Department of Agriculture releases annual managed bee

		population figures

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 17-19, 2017
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2017 10:16:00 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 news on an Oregon bill that would allow GMO patent holders to be sued for non-GMO crop cross-breeding, and another state bill that would allow local governments to regulate GMOs. In Africa, scientists called for prompt approval of Bt maize varieties to help battle the armyworm, which has been causing significant damage to crops.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Reporting and commentary continued on the Oregon state legislature's biotech-related bills. One proposed law would hold GMO patent holders responsible for GMO contamination of non-GMO crops. Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushu warned the law would stifle innovation. **See more on the liability bill**. Another bill would allow local governments to restrict or ban GMOs. **See more on local GMO control**.
- Ugandan news site The Sunrise reported field trials proved Bt maize controls the armyworm, but farmers cannot use the variety due to lack of regulatory approval. The East African reported scientists are calling on regulatory agencies to approve the GM crop to protect crops from extensive damage caused by the pest. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: BIO posts letter to FDA requesting an extension on deadline to respond to draft guidance on gene-edited animals, says delaying responses until June would allow time for additional scientific review

Video: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins promotes Regeneration campaign, emphasizing importance of creating a united force to achieve consumer rights goals, laments passage of federal GMO labeling law last year

News: MIT Technology Review reports on new National Academy of Sciences report on new biotech products that US regulators are not prepared for, NAS committee member Jennifer Kuzma notes all of them have potential to be beneficial, includes gene editing and gene drives

News: Oregon television outlet reports on recent hearings on two new GMO bills, one which would hold GMO companies liable for contamination of non-GM crops, and the other would reverse the state's preemption of local GMO restrictions, Oregon Seed Association notes a patchwork of laws would make it difficult for farmers

News: Western Producer quotes Bayer spokesman who says Europe will not budge on anti-GM stance, so it is critical that scientists explain new technologies such as gene editing and address consumer fears early

Study: Study in Ecology and Evolution found differences in structure of arthropod food webs between Bt

and non-GM maize fields, however, findings indicate that neither Bt trait nor glyphosate applications contributed to those differences

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news source reports Bt maize trial proves successful in controlling armyworm, but farmers cannot yet access the variety due to regulatory roadblocks; notes worms have shown "unique ability" to resist common pesticides

News: Researchers in eastern and southern Africa call for Bt maize approval to give farmers protection against armyworm devastation

News: South African business news site reports anti-biotech group African Centre for Biodiversity claims Monsanto's drought-tolerant GM maize is "Trojan horse" that takes advantage of farmers to get its "risky gene" introduced; Monsanto official says they're trying to help farmers

News: France-based African news outlet reports on Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's (Comesa) plans to develop and import GMOs, with 19 Comesa members setting up infrastructures in line with Cartagena Protocol recommendations, Comesa will provide technical biosafety opinions

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: US-based Asia Pacific current affairs magazine contributor profiles frontrunner for WHO director-general, Pakistan's Sania Nishtar, says patchy oversight of IARC is one problem organization faces, cites glyphosate classification as example of "secretive" methodology resulting in public confusion, scrutiny of the panel

News: Philippines news site reports Negros Occidental provincial board passed resolution supporting Sugar Regulatory Administration in its attempt to regulate HFCS importation' Negros Occidental; Save-Sugar Industry Movement says Coca-Cola is "arrogant," concerned with corporate greed

News: Science news site reports Monsanto's Milton Stokes warns GMO labeling will be taken as a health warning while studies show no safety issues; labeling raises product costs for consumers

News: Indian financial news outlet reports on government decision to keep Bt cotton seed prices and licensing fees the same as last year, highlights Mahyco Monsanto Biotech's (MMBL) legal challenge of 2015 price control order which reduced trait values and capped seed prices, Delhi High Court has yet to make a decision

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: German anti-GMO NGO Testbiotech responds to SDP member positions on its "Genetic Engineering Boundaries!" project, Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks highlights importance of preventing uncontrolled spread of GMOs into the environment, but Testbiotech finds her wording vague

Report: European Food Safety Authority publishes EFSA Scientific Committee opinion addressing the criteria through which it can 'increase the speed and effectiveness' for updating EFSA scientific assessments

News release: German NGO No Patents on Seeds announces public appeal by 32 civil society organizations demanding prohibition of granting of patents on plants and animals derived from conventional breeding, following European Patent Office's patents granted to Carlsberg and Heineken for conventional barley varieties

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports CIAT studies impact of GM crops on Bolivian soil, analyzes impact on yields; CIAT official describes biotech as tool to achieve better results

News: Brazilian news site reports farmers claim GM crops drop their seeds in field, become herbicide-resistant pests that damage crops in next planting season

News: Mexican news site reports Toledo meets with senator to discuss concerns regarding GM maize and risk presented for native maize

News: Malaysian wire service Bernama reports on Bolovian government decision to import GM corn from Argentina, due to short domestic supply caused by drought and insect infestations, small producer Freddy Taboada noted paradox in Bolovia allowing GM corn imports, while restricting domestic production to one GM soy variety

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on recent meeting between a delegation from GM-Free Hastings and Environment Minister Nick Smith to discuss proposed reforms to Resource Management Act, which they believe will destroy their export markets if prevented from keeping their region GM-free

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 16, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:22 56 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 Mexican Supreme Court judge ruling authorities must cancel Monsanto's permit to plant GM soy in certain municipalities. Tax-exempt NGO Environmental Working Group released a report, "Growing Organic," to lobby Congress to provide support to farmers who switch to organic production.

Consolidated highlights include:

- La Jornada reported that a Supreme Court justice in a draft opinion ruled authorities must cancel Monsanto's permit to plant GM soybean in the municipalities of Othón P. Blanco, Bacalar and Quintana Roo because of GM soy's potential impact on indigenous communities, biodiversity and animal and plant health. **See more**.
- Environmental Working Group, a tax-exempt NGO funded by the organic food industry, released a report to lobby Congress on the benefits of changing to organic production from "pesticide-dependent" practices. **See more**.

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North America

Campaign: Alt news site amplifies Organic Consumers Association campaign seeking help from readers to locate Midwest stores selling GM Arctic Apples; the apples will have a label identifying the brand

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science reports researchers raising money for a 120-acre GM American chestnut restoration forest in New York; scientists will use site to assess environmental impacts of the GM chestnut trees

News release: EWG, a tax-exempt NGO which receives millions from organic marketing industry, issues report used to lobby Congress on Farm Bill urging changes to benefit organic production to replace "chemical pesticide" ependent practices by non-organic growers

News release: House ag subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research summarizes ag research hearing, says witnesses stressed crucial role research plays in ensuring American agriculture remains competitive

Comnentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts photo-essay reporting that Tanzania, following strict biosafety regulations, burned GM maize material from Water Efficient Maize for Africa trial

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports African trade group COMESA ready for development, importation of GMOs in eastern, southern Africa; ISAAA official says miscommunication, costly regulatory processes delay African nations from using biotechnology

News: Zimbabwean news site reports researchers say by 2050 Africa will struggle to grow enough food; call for improvements, including grain varieties adapted to local conditions, better disease control

Comnentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts photo-essay reporting that Tanzania, following strict biosafety regulations, burned GM maize material from Water Efficient Maize for Africa trial

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett's explanation that government reluctance to approve GM field trials is due to objection to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation's handling of the process, and concerns about cross-pollination

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news site reports CropLife influences government to draft biotech seed regulations to improve ag efficiency

Commentary: Assignment Editor of Bangladeshi news outlet writes in support of gene editing, emphasizing importance of investing in the technology locally and making the public aware, promotes upcoming workshop on CRISPR-Cas9 organized by Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists (GNOBB)

News: Press Trust of India reports on new investigation launched by Competition Commission of India following new complaint against Monsanto filed by Andhra Pradesh-based Sri Rama Agri Genetics, alleging that it abused its dominant market position by imposing unfair and discriminatory conditions in Bt licensing agreements

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies GeneWatch's report voicing concerns about Oxitec's planned expansion of GE mosquito release in the Cayman Islands, highlights concerns about cost-effectiveness, health and environmental risks, and combining GE mosquito releases with other vector controls

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news site reports EFSA director notes if agency's decisions meet a group's political agenda they praise the EFSA, if it is contrary, they claim it has conflicts of interest; says groups should stop attacking, examine EFSA's work quality

Report: European Food Safety Authority Scientific Panel issues opinion on application by Dow AgroSciences for commercialization of GM herbicide-tolerant soybean variety, they found that it poses no health risks and is as nutritious as its conventional counterpart, and that chances of environmental risks are very low

Report: Spanish environmental NGO GRAIN publishes report highlighting its 2016 activities, including efforts to combat proposed ChemChina/Syngenta merger, and promotion of agroecology

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine farming news site reports drought, pest damage force Bolivia to import GM maize; Bolivian farmer complains they are not allowed to cultivate GM maize, says they cannot compete with GM maize from Argentina

News: Costa Rican news site reports Frente Amplio party presents bill to mandate GM product labeling; party director claims there are doubts about GMO health effects

Commentary: Center for Investigative Journalism author in part 2 of series reviews Puerto Rico's tax

incentives to biotech firms, questions if incentives were worth it, says 'government gave companies 16 times more than they contributed to the tax authorities'

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on debate surrounding proposed reforms to Resource Management Act which would ban local councils from regulating GMOs, Maori Party co-leader Marama Fox stated its ongoing support hinges on National Party amending the clause related to ministerial powers

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Mar. 15, 2017
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9 01:02 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an updated Australia touring schedule for biotechnology critic Michael Antoniou of King's College. In Portugal, the People Animals Nature Party announced it would be debating a bill to require GMO labels on animals fed genetically modified feed.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Friends of the Earth Australia updated its scheduled speaking events for King's College lecturer Michael Antoniou, who will be speaking about the potential risks of allowing new plant breeding techniques to escape current regulations on genetically modified foods. In contrast, NZ Farmer reported that speakers at the Future Farms conference highlighted the potential benefits of gene-edited plants and animals. **See more**.
- Portugal's People Animals Nature (PAN) Party announced that they would bring a bill to Parliament requiring that products from animals fed GM feed be labeled as GMOs. The group claimed that GM products were still under review for safety and added that consumers has a "right" to information about the use of GMOs in production. **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: Monsanto's Robert Fraley writes in Huffington Post that considering onslaught of fake news on GMOs, consumers must question news source as well as content, notes scientists must pay attention to science of communication rather than performing "fact dump"

News: Canada's Grainews reports Simplot working to identify Canadian potato farmers willing to begin planting Innate potato lines in 2017; less bruising and lower amounts of acrylamide make it appealing

News: The Scientist reports on University of Arizona research on development of maize variety capable of resisting development of aflatoxin, USDA Corn Host Plant Resistance Research group researcher Marilyn Warburton noted genetically engineering resistance is the most economically effective control method

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian newspaper reports regional biotech center director believes biotech crops are vital to improving food security in Nigeria, however lack of labor and equipment have kept biotechnology from increasing acceptance

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency GMO Detection Laboratory's analysis of certain products from Nigerian superstores thought to contain GMOs, lab

head Amedu Josephine noted importance of making sure that any inserted sequences do not pose health risks

More Africa items

Asia

News: Egyptian news site reports professor, ministers discuss ways to use GE products while reducing environmental risks, including those associated with GMOs

Commentary: Citing a 'new study,' Natural Blaze contributor says golden rice is a 'flop' that doesn't do what it was 'allegedly intended to do'; claims corporations don't care about starvation in Third World

News: Press Trust of India reports GEAC decides not to loosen requirements for obtaining a state government No-Objection Certificate for field trials of GM crops

More Asia items

Europe

News: Portuguese news site reports People, Animals, Nature party to bring bill requiring labeling of products from animals fed GMOs, says bill will inform consumers about controversial GMOs that are "being hidden"

News: Portuguese news site reports People, Animals, Nature party to debate bill that would require labeling products from animals fed GMOs; party officials say consumers have right to the information even though risks are "under study"

News: French newspaper reports protestors gathered in support of Eric Olivie, who was arrested last November for cutting down field trials of mutagenic rapeseed; judgment on the case should come in September

News: Italian news site reports regional ag minister says CETA opens door for GMOs, cheaper and lower quality food to compete against Italy's higher quality food

News: France's Actu Environnement reports Fraud Control finds 18 percent of food labeled non-GMO does not conform to regulations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports poster contest will promote "defense of maize" against GMOs, an initiative started by artist and activist Francisco Toledo

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand Soil and Health Association warns supporters that local communities' right to GE-free zones is threatened by "dictator clause" in proposed amendment to Resource Management Act, would allow Environment Minister to prevent councils from creating GE-Free food producing zones

Announcement: Friends of the Earth Australia announces forum dates and locations for Dr Michael Antoniou's Australian tour, where he will discuss his concerns about new GE techniques; claims products of new breeding techniques could potentially enter the market without safety testing

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports on recent Future Farms conference where Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand exec noted the country cannot pretend to be an "agricultural Silicon Valley" without embracing genetic modification, noting there are many different types of GM

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports on Livestock Improvement Corporation scientist Bevin Harris' call for investment in gene editing research, even if the country doesn't end up using it, so that scientists can better understand how it works and its potential benefits

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 14, 2017
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:03:28 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 Swiss Council of States had backed a farmer proposal to ease regulations on GMO-free labeling. In China, a former CCTV reporter and prominent anti-biotechnology activist spoke with Agence France-Presse about censorship of his media accounts. International NGOs promoted various efforts and programs to encourage agroecology as an alternative to so-called corporate agriculture.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Switzerland's Council of States passed a motion directing the country's National Council to allow Swiss farmers to label their meat and dairy "GMO free" even if the animals are fed GMO grains. The effort was supported by the Swiss Farmers Association, which said that local farmers were at a disadvantage because neighboring countries had not been as strict about the non-GMO label. The motion, while nonbinding, should prompt additional hearings on the issue. **See more**.
- Chinese anti-biotechnology activist and TV personality Cui Yongyuan told Agence France-Presse that the Chinese government had removed some of his social media posts and "blacklisted" him due to his outspoken resistance to GM crop cultivation. Yongyuan, who spoke at the tail end of the Two Sessions parliamentary event, said that Communist Party officials were in danger of falling into the same sort of blind obedience that had characterized the Cultural Revolution. He vowed to maintain his opposition to the technology. **See more**.
- In a series of unrelated posts and publications, international activist groups promoted agroecology as a necessary alternative to resource-intensive farming models. French activist group Secours Catholique-Caritas France published an English=language version of its report on agroecological methods, noting that the model emphasized established local farming practices over corporate or western-influenced agriculture. Third World Network amplified the report, and highlighted recent academic studies that examined the variety of ways agroecology had been defined and implemented. **See more**.

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North America

Event: Green Film Network to screen "Food Evolution" at its D.C. Environmental Film Festival with follow-up panel featuring Cornell biologist Davidson Evanega; event promoted by Washington Post (March 17)

News: Politico reports seed, biotech firms seek more time to respond to FDA request for comments on proposed gene-editing regulations

News: Politico reports on legislation reintroduced by Sens. Chuck Grassley and Debbie Stabenow to make secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services permanent members of Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS), highlights CFIUS' recent approval of ChemChina's proposed acquisition of Syngenta

Commentary: Environmental industry lawyer responds to NAS report on future biotechnology products,

acknowledging recommendations for regulatory clarity and more funding in regulating biotech products, worries diminished EPA funding will keep recommendations from implementation

Commentary: Rural Vermont organizer's op-ed in VT Digger presents case for shift to regenerative ag model, describing the ecological, economic harm caused by the industrial system, promotes NGO's Groundswell campaign/tour to promote activism in state

Commentary: REALfarmacy.com contributor warns that new GMO ingredients are being 'slipped into your food'; links to Jeffrey Smith video and Synbiowatch database of products 'to avoid'

More North America items

Africa

Campaign: African Centre for Biodiversity calls on supporters to sign petition to block commercial approval of Monsanto's "bogus" drought tolerant GM-maize variety in South Africa, claiming it is a "Trojan horse" that will introduce a risky gene into the food supply

News: Stat News reports on possible release of GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso as part of anti-malaria initiative; notes locals' experience with GMOs mostly limited to poor performing Bt cotton

Report: African Center for Biodiversity comment submission to Competition Commission on Bayer-Monsanto merger outlines NGO's concerns on impacts of agribusiness mergers, noting deals could limit ag-tech competition, threaten biodiversity by narrowing seed/crop resources

More Africa items

Asia

News: AFP reports Chinese delegate is upset China is investing in GMO research and calls out other delegates for refusing to take action, claims he is being blacklisted for his anti-GMO stance

Report: La Via Campesina report in Journal of Peasant Studies examines Zero Budget Natural Farming peasant agroecology movement in Karnataka, India, emphasizing ways in which peasant movements can successfully scale-up agroecology

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Europe report claiming "agricultural intensification and pesticide use are among the main drivers of biodiversity loss," further claims herbicide-resistant crops are "no option for a sustainable agriculture"

Commentary: Third World Network promotes Secours Catholique-Caritas Europe report the benefits of agroecological to smallholder, indigenous groups, as method to reduce world hunger, achieve food sovereignty

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies literature review by Coventry University researcher arguing agroecology is being reworked into climate-smart agriculture to conform to the dominant industrial food system and viewed as climate-smart agriculture

More Asia items

Europe

News: Swiss news outlet reports on Council of States' passage of motion to amend law on GMO-free labeling in food, stipulating that animal products must not be produced with GM feed, Swiss Farmers' Association is pleased with the decision

News: Swiss news outlet RTS reports on recent tests on imported animal feed which found that they are 100 percent GMO free, just prior to federal vote on GMO-free labeling, National Councilor and director of Swiss Farmers Union, Jacques Bourgeois, noted farmers incur higher costs with non-GMO feed

Report: French smallholder advocacy group publication argues future of humanity, food sovereignty

depend on movement to agroecology; outlines NGO projects to help transition from industrial to agroecological food system

Commentary: UK financial news site columnist shares highlights from Royal Society president speech promoting opportunities in genetics technology, including high yield, drought-resistant, biofortified crops; argues public should keep open mind in exploring this new technology

Commentary: EuropaBio Secretary General says EU comitology reform 'threatens innovation,' but adds that the current system is also problematic; criticizes politicians who listen to GMO scaremongering rather than 'actual facts'

More Europe items

Latin America

Event: Latin American, Brazilian agroecology groups to host Latin American Congress on Agroecology to discuss public policies and ways to build more ecologically sustainable societies (Sept. 12-15)

Commentary: Pan-American news outlet contributor criticizes "natural" food movement, notes all food has chemicals in it, highlights Nobel Laureate letter endorsing GMOs, points out that organic industry benefits from consumer fear

News: Mexican news outlet reports on letter from Oaxacan scientific and artistic communities to Senate of the Republic, warning about entry of GM seeds and grains, claiming that GM maize contains carcinogens and threatens native maize varieties and the economy

News: Costa Rican news outlet reports on National Ecological Federation's (FECON) GMO labeling campaign as part of World Consumer Rights Day on March 15, pointing to President Luis Guillermo Solís' 2014 promise to pursue GMO labeling regulations

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 - Mar. 13, 2017
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:03:34 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 warnings from researchers in Kenya that the armyworm epidemic would require new strategies in order to prevent "disaster." Also today, a local agricultural news site analyzed the results of Western Australia's recent elections.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Food security scientists speaking at an event in Nairobi on Sunday said that a food "disaster" was imminent, citing the ongoing fall armyworm incursions in the region. During the event, a researcher involved in the Water-Efficient Maize for Africa project said that Bt maize could be a key strategy for managing the pest, citing successful results in South Africa and in Ugandan field trials. **See more on the field trials**. **See more on armyworm**.
- The African Centre for Biodiversity issued two new reports, criticizing claims that new plant breeding techniques such as gene-editing should not be regulated as traditional GMOs. The brief publications focused on CRISPR and gene-editing technology, and on RNAi and other in-development plant modification techniques. The group cited European activists, and claimed that the new technologies had not been adequately assessed for health and environmental risks. **See more**.
- Agricultural journalist Colin Bettles reported that the recent Western Australia elections - which resulted in a strong WA Labor Party showing - would likely mean significant obstacles for GM crop adoption in the region. Bettles reviewed the history of Western Australia's GM crops ban, noting that it was the result of a 2008 Labor/Greens coalition that looks to be repeated following Sunday's results. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Breakthrough Institute's Director of Conservation examines trade-off between yield and biodiversity in farming, highlights various strategies such as no-till, intercropping, use of Bt technology and cover crops, notes importance of locating agriculture in places where biodiversity losses are smallest and yield gains are greatest

News: Oregon news site reports House ag committee public hearing on bill to reverse law against law bans on GM crops, Senate committee hearing on bill to restrict antibiotic use in livestock set for March 16

Audio: Speaking to Agri-Pulse, USFRA CEO Krotz says Straight Talk campaign has taken low-key approach of reaching out to food companies about sustainability marketing, asserts company pledges that mislead consumers need challenged

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines reasons why eating local is not necessarily sustainable, points to potential for biotech to revolutionize the local food movement, highlighting crops capable of withstanding stress of climate change, as well as benefits of no-till systems

More North America items

Africa

News: Egyptian news site previews Third International Conference on Biotechnology and Environmental Safety, notes event will gather scientists and researchers to discuss developments in biotechnology, climate change, water conservation and the impact on biodiversity

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Water Efficient Maize for Africa project manager Sylvester Oikeh's call on government to allow planting of pest resistant GM maize variety, proven successful in field trials, to prevent food shortages caused by spreading fall armyworm outbreak

News: Uganda Broadcasting Company reports debate over health, environmental effects of GMO crops continues in parliament; notes no scientific study has shown GMOs hazardous to human health

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports Portuguese Minister of Science and Technology says country will offer technical support in biotechnology to enhance agriculture, food security in Nigeria

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on rising grain prices due to short supply, with experts noting reserves would be consumed in two weeks, Country Coordinator of Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Rose Gidado, called on government to embrace biotech to boost domestic food production

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes two reports on risks associated with novel plant breeding techniques such as gene editing, countering argument that the methods are safer and more precise, with special focus on RNAi

More Africa items

Asia

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Asia during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: Norwegian Biotechnology Council announces agenda of March 14 meeting, which will feature discussion of various GM crop applications, including maize and canola varieties

News release: FAO announces U.S. joins International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture aimed to strengthen global food security through sharing and promotion of member countries' plant genetic resources

Commentary: Germany anti-biotech news outlet amplifies FAO Future of Food report, claims lack of GMO discussion suggest FAO does not consider biotech a viable solution to ending hunger

Commentary: Writing in Polish news site, Polish civil affairs NGO director claims biotech corporations are trying to "create a friendly image of NBTs" in Europe to increase profits for on GMOs, encourages financial support of his group's GMO awareness campaign

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: María Colín of Greenpeace Mexico and José Antonio Serratos Hernández of UACM write for Mexican news outlet, criticizing government draft health and environmental risk assessment requirements for GMOs, noting the document's focus on economic considerations does not correspond with environmental protection

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on planned agribusiness mergers between Dow/Dupont, Bayer/Monsanto and ChemChina/Syngenta, highlights companies' reasoning that the mergers are necessary to boost production, adds great amounts of time and money needed to develop new seeds

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian newspaper reports Western Australia farmers' plans to plant more GM canola limited by seed shortage; oilseeds association exec says shortage caused by increased demand worldwide

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on concerns about biotech's future in Western Australia following Labor party victory as well as expanded Upper House crossbench in recent election, as Labor will unlikely be able to pass legislation without support from parties that mistrust GM crops

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 13, 2017
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 4 05:54 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A report issued by the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to food attracted widespread international media coverage and considerable amplification among anti-pesticide advocacy groups touting its claims that pesticides are not necessary for modern agriculture and usage of the chemicals should instead be considered a human rights violation. Today's newsletter includes a profile of the report's chief author, Hilal Elver, and details her association with activist groups and her reliance on their claims.

Another high-profile attack on pesticides came from Environmental Working Group's release of its annual "Dirty Dozen" list claiming there are dangerous levels of pesticide residues on produce. Several responses highlighting flaws in EWG's claims are included below.

Looking ahead, additional activism is expected around pesticides this week as the European Chemicals Agency is reportedly set to release the results of its glyphosate evaluation on Wednesday.

If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. This will give you access to the articles below as well as a wealth of information on recent news coverage, research and stakeholder activity as well as the ability to network with others. To share articles, simply 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: Hilal Elver

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food report asserting pesticide use is a violation of human rights and that pesticides and modern farming techniques are not needed to feed the world was

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: In creating "Dirty Dozen" list, Environmental Working Group "massages data to produce disinformation"

Matt Ridley: Exciting future ahead for gene editing, which is already saving lives of cancer patients and generating healthier crops

Amanda Zaluckyj: New USDA chief should unravel "unholy alliance" between media, government and Big Organic

David Zaruk: Unpublished document details "Berlin Slime Strategy" to manipulate facts and create negative perception of GMOs, pesticides

David Ropeik: After labeling debate of 2016, this year could be turning point in public acceptance of GM foods

SUNY researchers seek donations to fund $125,000 biotech blight-resistant American Chestnut forest restoration project

Steven Savage: Many people think that organic means "no pesticides" but that is simply not true

authored by a longtime opponent of industrial agriculture who favors agroecology instead.

Hilal Elver, who was appointed to the post in 2014, is an activist attorney, research professor and co-director of the Project on Global Climate Change, Human Security and Democracy housed at the Orfalea Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her report last week relies heavily upon citations from Pesticide Action Network, Beyond Pesticides, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, Charles Benbrook and other anti-pesticide sources to support her claims. She, meanwhile, has cast doubt on opinions of well-respected scientists.

LEARN MORE about Elver, who has also been critical of Monsanto and other corporations, opposing the enforcement of intellectual property rights. Last year, her spouse, Richard Falk, was an official ambassador for the Monsanto Tribunal held by NGOs.

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Paul Vincelli: "Enormous scrutiny" for scientists accepting industry funding to research GM crops

Julianna LeMieux: Scientists should have their say during U.S. FDA comment period on gene editing

Hank Campbell: When science journalists are "paid to undermine science"

Shanthu Shantharam: Genetically modified crops are the future in India, return to traditional agriculture would bring back food scarcity and starvation

Kavin Senapathy: Nestle stands up to NGOs' "distraction strategy" calling for GMO labeling

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What's Trending?

European Chemicals Agency reportedly set to release results of glyphosate review on Wednesday

UN special rapporteur claims pesticide usage violates human rights, advocates global treaty to phase out usage

As Canadian parliament committee holds hearings, health minister promises proposed imidacloprid ban will be implemented

Food & Water Watch, other groups file legal petition demanding EPA overhaul how it protects communities from CAFO water pollution

Environmental Working Group's annual "Dirty Dozen" report met with criticism about misleading claims

Calendar highlights

March 14	March 15-16	March 16-17
BIO Asia International Conference	European Crop Protection Association/Crop Care Association regulatory conference	Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: Europe
March 20-30	**March 20-24**	**March 22**
Pesticide Action Week (Week of Alternatives to Pesticides) in Europe	Convention on Biological Diversity Asia-Pacific Workshop on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms	U.S. Department of Agriculture releases annual managed bee population figures

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 10-12, 2017
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:04 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 over the weekend included a report by the National Academies of Sciences indicating U.S. regulatory agencies are not ready to keep up with new biotechnology products that will be introduced over the next 10 years. Researchers promoted a genetically modified corn variety that shuts down aflatoxin production.

Consolidated highlights include:

- A new NAS report indicated U.S. regulatory agencies are not adequately staffed and have insufficient levels of expertise to keep up with an influx of new biotech products likely to enter the market in the next decade as a result of new breeding techniques. **See more**.
- Science and mainstream media reported University of Arizona researchers developed a GM corn strain that uses RNAi to inhibit aflatoxin production, potentially saving lives and millions of tons of grain. Researchers say the strategy could be applied to other crops. **See more**.
- A Center for Investigative Journalism reporter published a three-part series and news agency Agencia EFE reported on agribusinesses in Puerto Rico, noting the companies receive hundreds of millions of dollars in tax incentives, pay much less in taxes and use land they say should be used to alleviate food insecurity. The pieces also claim GMOs and pesticides are making employees sick. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health's Julianna LeMieux urges scientists to participate in FDA's open comment period on gene editing before April 19 deadline, noting less than 10 percent of the 191 comments received thus far support gene edited food, with most using words like "poison" and "toxic"

Commentary: Biology Fortified announces new series of infographics, GMO Revealed; first in series focuses on Bt corn, shows how the trait works visually to help consumers understand biotech process

Interview: Stanford Medicine interviews journalist Michael Specter prior to upcoming lecture, Specter laments fact that science denialism is getting worse, noting people continue to fear GMOs in spite of scientific consensus on their safety, believes ignoring consumers' concerns and anxieties is not the solution

Campaign: SUNY researchers issue Ten Thousand Chestnut Challenge seeking donations to fund $125,000 biotech blight-resistant American Chestnut forest restoration project

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association calls for support in NGO campaign to 'uncover' which stores are selling the GM Arctic Apple in the Midwest; asks locals to 'hunt down' the stores

Commentary: Virginia permaculture farmer examines GMO debate, notes that while there is no evidence

of long term health and environmental risks, and in fact there are several environmental benefits, the real danger is that people are giving up their right to participate in agriculture

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Kenyan news outlet editorial criticizes ban on biotech research, noting research is what is able to allay any fears about safety, argues banning biotech research stifles creativity and innovation

News: France-based African commodity news outlet reports on collaboration between National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) to ensure strict regulation of import of GM products

Commentary: Inf'OGM interviews Burkina Faso organic cotton collective trying to re-establish organic cotton in the country, counter Monsanto's Bt cotton

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor examines several emerging trends in science and technology, highlights exciting developments in gene editing, noting potential to change consumer attitudes on biotech since no foreign genes are used, highlights potential economic, health and environmental benefits

News: Philippines business news site reports on benefits of golden rice to increase yields, improve health and increase profits for farmers, Monsanto official outlines cost savings for small farmers and emphasizes safety of Bt rice

News: India news site Mint reports GEAC sub-committee will draft rules on importing dried grains and solubles made using GM corn

News: Indian business news outlet reports Union Ag Minister Radha Mohan Singh skipped event organized by new Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), following Swadeshi Jagran Manch's (SJM) warning that government officials should not attend events representing multinationals that oppose government seed policies

News: Southern India news source reports local MP tells plant research seminar attendees that universities must educate rural populations about environmental issues, also notes potential health benefits of GE crops like golden rice

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Croatian news site reports Croatia one of nations that abstained on GM maize authorization vote despite banning cultivation in their country; notes Green Party claims GMOs offer no benefits, harm health and the environment

News: Italian news outlet reports on upcoming event on GM crops and their potential use in agriculture, speakers will address legal issues surrounding GM crop cultivation in Italy, as well as controversy surrounding new breeding techniques

News: Swiss news site amplifies PLOS ONE article claim that NAS study included scientists who had conflicts of interests, claims study funded by Monsanto

More Europe items

Latin America

Announcement: Greenpeace Mexico and Autonomous University of Mexico City comment on GMO risk assessments, claims project does not meet Cartegena Protocol, Mexican biotech regulations, and other regulations

News: Bolivian news agency reports Bolivian trade official says if Bolivia allowed biotech crops, could would make $150 million a year, crop would help farmers' financial condition

News: Monsanto Argentina president tells agricultural news site company is helping Argentina farmers regain competitiveness through new technology

News: Cuban news site reports Brazil authorizes commercialization of four GM crops, two other GM products

News: Peruvian news site reports Cornell researcher notes Peru's GMO moratorium means scientists in the country cannot complete research with field trials, says more research needed to remove doubts about biotechnology

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Friends of the Earth announces Kings College of London's Prof. Michael Antoniou to visit Australia to speak on his concerns regarding new gene editing techniques, claims results of deregulating would be "catastrophic"

Commentary: Alan Broughton of Socialist Alliance and Organic Agriculture Association writes for Australian green news outlet, making claims about Monsanto's attempts to gain "agricultural domination," claims GMOs and their associated pesticides harm humans and the environment, and that GMOs do not significantly boost yields

News release: New Zealand NGO GE Free Northland voices opposition to National Party Minister's "arrogant power grab" in attempts to change Resource Management Act (RMA) to prevent local councils from creating GE-free zones, spokesman Martin Robinson noted importance of GE-free status for retaining access to premium markets

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 9, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2017 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 a new bill in the Oregon state legislature that would allow the state to mediate in conflicts regarding cross-pollination. Center for Food Integrity research shows increasing consumer acceptance of GMO crops.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Capital Press reported the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that would restore the Oregon Department of Agriculture's ability to mediate in conflicts regarding cross-pollination. Oregon's lawmakers also had no objections to an ODA proposal that would allow the agency to enforce federal food safety laws with on-farm inspections. **See more**.
- Center for Food Integrity CEO Charlie Arnot wrote in a Genetic Literacy Project article that research shows public trust of GM food is growing due to increased transparency. **See more**.

The Bonus Eventus monitoring portal will be undergoing maintenance from 2 a.m. until approximately 4 a.m. Central on Friday, March 10. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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: Center for Food Integrity CEO says public acceptance of GM crops is growing due to new consumer transparency initiatives, highlights CFI's research showing shared values are the foundation for building trust

News: Successful Farming magazine reports that despite being a leader in agricultural innovation, the U.S. is falling further behind China in terms of government funding of food and ag research by a nearly 2-to-1 margin

Commentary: Jennifer Kuzma writes opinion piece for Nature, argues that debate over product vs process-based regulation of GE technologies is stalling progress, believes both should be taken into account, as well as concerns from various stakeholders, to establish system that values both science and citizens' values

News release: New York anti-hunger charity releasing a new book that highlights women around the world sharing their stories about topics like GMO, agrochemicals, and more as it deals with food sovereignty and sustainable communities

News: U.S. ag industry news service reports on comments made by key agribusiness lobbyist Tyson Redpath of the Russell Group pushing for federal GMO labeling law to be fully implemented by July 2018, warns any exemptions for sweeteners or vegetable oils will only dilute the law and give activist groups something to attack

More North America items

Africa

News: Local news reports Kenyan Health Cabinet Secretary asked to 'stop frustrating research' on GM crops, National Assembly's Agriculture committee working on a petition to push government support for modified crops research

News: Xinhua reports on spread of fall armyworm outbreak through western Tanzania from neighboring Zambia, ag official Permin Matumizi noted farmers' efforts to control the pest are failing as pesticides prove ineffective, Ag Secretary Mathew Mtigumwe noted they have been forced to procure new pesticides

Commentary: ISAAA reports on favorable opinions on GM cotton field trials in Swaziland from a member of the Swaziland Parliament, plan to work with stakeholders to try and enact legislation to allow for future growth of GM cotton within the country

Video: Ghanaian television outlet interviews Edwin Baffour of Food Sovereignty Ghana and Mumuni Abdulai of Savannah Agricultural Research Institute, Baffour voices opposition to Bt cowpea field trials, pointing to negative health and environmental risks, Abdulai disputes these claims, highlights education efforts

News: Sputnik reports on settlement between Monsanto and Burkina Faso regarding GM cotton dispute, with Burkina Faso retaining 75 of royalties, according to Wilfried Yameogo of cotton company SOFITEX, headline states Monsanto was "chased" from West Africa

More Africa items

Asia

News release: CropLife Asia promotes how biotech crops can help food security in Asia at its annual general meeting, discusses benefits of GM crops and crop protection products for smallholder farmers to increase yield, limit crop loss to pests and disease

News: Iranian financial news outlet reports on Iranian Genetics Society head Mahmoud Tavallaei's assessment that per capita pesticide consumption is much higher than in the EU and US, Samira Kahak, secretary of Biosafety Society of Iran's Consulting Council, noted GMOs can reduce pesticide consumption by 37 percent

News: The Hindu reports Punjab Agricultural University developed 3 Bt cotton varieties; university official notes farmers can reuse seeds, resulting in savings

More Asia items

Europe

News: Le Monde reports study in PLOS ONE says nearly a third of authors in NAS study have conflicts of interest due to accepting industry funding; financial ties not revealed in report

Report: Genok issues assessment on reapplication documents for GM oilseed rape GT73, highlights fact that it is banned in Norway to prevent contamination of wild relatives, notes health and environmental implications of glyphosate tolerance, acknowledges that Norwegian agencies have not identified any health risks to humans or animals

News: London Evening Standard reports on Syngenta's efforts to develop resilient and sustainable wheat varieties to meet London's soaring demand, heights its upcoming debate in conjunction with Syngenta on March 22 entitled "The Future of Food"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Center for Investigative Journalism writer in part 3 of series says Monsanto employees at Isabela Agricultural Experiment Station in Puerto Rico sickened from exposure to GMOs, pesticides

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Planned field trials of Monsanto's Bollgard III GM cotton technology in Ord Irrigation Scheme, Monsanto's Tony May notes it is designed to target a wider pest spectrum

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 8, 2017
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 9:02:46 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 Monsanto had settled a lawsuit over the poor performance of Bt cotton seed distributed in Burkina Faso. Food and agriculture groups also celebrated International Women's Day.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Reuters reported that Monsanto had reached a deal with the cotton sector of Burkina Faso, allowing the SOFITEX trade group to keep most of the royalties from its introduction of GM cotton. SOFITEX had argued that the shorter fibers of Monsanto's Bt cotton variety resulted in an inferior quality product and blamed Monsanto for significant revenue loss. The Reuters article noted that Monsanto had promised to issue a statement on the settlement. **See more**.
- In celebration of International Women's Day, supportive and anti-biotechnology stakeholders profiled women working on issues of food security. Activist group WhyHunger highlighted the work of food sovereignty activists around the world in its new report, "Through Her Eyes." The International Potato Center profiled a Ugandan researcher working on blight-resistant GM potato field trials. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Harvard Extension School Environmental Studies instructor David Ropeik writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines ways in which GMO labeling controversy and advent of gene editing transformed the GMO debate, gradually improving consumer acceptance

Commentary: Seeker contributor examines potential for CRISPR to help domesticate wild crops without introducing any foreign genes, echoing Michael Palmgren's frustration at public opposition to biotech, believes scientists must learn from past mistakes and put consumers' concerns first

News: Oregon House refers bill that would allow lawsuits against GE crop patent holders to judiciary, measure highlights cases of farmers dealing with unexpected GM crops found growing on farms

Commentary: Campaign to Stop GE Trees shares comments from Global Justice Ecology Project, calls GE chestnut a Trojan horse for commercial GE trees and asks readers to sign petition against the plant

News: Civil Eats reports on EU Parliament report on health benefits of organic foods, highlights claims about reduced pesticide exposure, and negative effects of pesticides, especially organophosphates, on human health, as well as its argument that organics can reduce antibiotic resistance

More North America items

Africa

News: Reuters reports Burkina Faso reaches agreement with Monsanto on GM cotton revenue losses, country keeps 75 percent of royalties; cotton producer says bad deal is "better than a bad court case"

News release: Biowatch claims industry statements that Bt corn resists armyworm are false, says tests have show armyworm is resistant to Bt crops, notes pest also proves resistant to pesticides

Commentary: International Potato Center (CIP) profiles researcher Anne Njoroge in recognition of International Women's Day 2017, highlighting her work on blight-resistant GM potatoes in Uganda, which have proven successful in field trials

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on recent meeting between African trade groups and International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) Africentre in Ethiopia, where experts emphasized need to embrace biotech to improve food security, without compromising the environment

News: Nigerian business news outlet reports on Obafemi Awolowo University Community Health lecturer Femi Aluko's recent call on government to facilitate advancements in biotech to improve sustainability and food security, noting it would strengthen efforts toward economic diversification

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) recent meeting with Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to strengthen their working relationship in ensuring strict regulation in importation of GM foods, NMBA director noted need for NCS to have access to all NBMA permits

More Africa items

Asia

News: Chinese news site reports that China continues to be supportive of GM crops according to China's vice minister for agriculture, plans to continue GM technology research investments launched in 2008

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Agricultural Economics study which found that herbicide-resistant weeds significantly increase weed management costs for GE cotton farmers, with an average increase of $98 ha-1 following establishment of herbicide-resistant weeds

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news site reports plant breeders don't believe gene editing produces GMOs, want less restrictive regulations; says German authorities unlikely to reach decision, leaving it up to European Court of Justice

Commentary: London-based Agrimoney summarizes market trends for cotton worldwide, says increase in cotton yields unlikely due to "almost complete uptake" of current GM cotton varieties

Commentary: Belgian news site notes GM products require labels in Belgium, claims it's proven that GMOs and products from animals raised on GM feed harm human health, notes Belgian agency AFSCA does not recognize GMO health hazard; questions why non-GMO food cannot be labeled

More Europe items

Latin America

News: U.S. grain industry magazine reports Peru expected to import 1 percent more soy in 2017-18, notes USDA report suggested labeling 30,000 products on its shelves that contain GM ingredients would be burdensome

News: Mexican news site reports research center develops portable kit to detect GM crops in the field

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 - March 7, 2017
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 9 02:56 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 statements from Chinese agricultural officials on the potential benefits of GM technology. In Ghana, media outlets amplified positive results from a GM cowpea field trial, while activist group Food Sovereignty Ghana reiterated its opposition to the country's recently approved agriculture minister. U.S. academics continued to respond to a recent accusation that a National Academies of Sciences (NAS) review of GM crop safety was marred by conflicts of interest.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Speaking at a side event during China's Two Sessions political gathering, Chinese agriculture officials highlighted the country's commitment to agricultural biotechnology research. Vice-Minister of Agriculture Zhang Taolin added that the country would be aggressive with research but careful with GM crop deployment. Agriculture Minister Han Changfu added that the country had not yet approved any GM crops for commercialization. **See more**.
- In Ghana, My Joy Online highlighted the positive results of Bt cowpea field trials. Reporter Joseph Opoku Gakpo noted that the cowpea was on track for a commercial release on 2018. Meanwhile, Food Sovereignty Ghana issued a statement criticizing the chairman of the Parliamentary Appointments Committee. The group said that the chairman had unfairly accused it of misleading people on GM crop safety and highlighted criticism of GMOs from other advocacy groups. **See more on Ghana's biotech regulation**. **See more on the agriculture minister**.
- U.S. academics Marion Nestle of New York University and Paul Vincelli of the University of Kentucky both responded to recent accusations leveled against researchers working on a review of GM crop safety. Nestle, writing in her Food Politics blog, said that the NAS response to the claims was inadequate. She added that the activists behind the accusation were simply seeking "full disclosure." Writing for the Genetic Literacy Project, Vincelli emphasized that industry collaboration should not automatically discredit scientific research. He added that he reached the same conclusions on GM crop safety as the NAS panel, despite never taking industry funding, because that's what the evidence demonstrates. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Ag news site reports industry scientists praise gene editing as path to faster advancements, better focus on issues that plague crops; Dow technology expert says it allows researchers to discover, develop, commercialize traits with more precision, predictability

Commentary: University of Kentucky professor says concerns over professional conflicts of interest are 'particularly acute' with ag scientists researching GM crops; adds that industry-researcher cooperation does not undermine the science

Commentary: NYU professor Marion Nestle criticizes National Academies 'in-denial response' to report finding conflicts of interest among committee members studying GE crop safety, calls for 'full disclosure'

Commentary: Julie Kelly writes for National Review, voices hope that Trump administration will enable

approval of new biotech products, highlights benefits of hornless gene-edited cattle for both animals and farmers, as well as the artic apple's potential to reduce food waste

Commentary: Paul Brewbaker of consulting firm TZ Economics writes for Honolulu Civil Beat, criticizing environmental groups' attempts to pass bills restricting pesticide use, highlights benefits of GMOs to medicine and Hawaiian ag, notes it would be foolish to deny local farmers proper crop protection methods

News: Canadian news site reports Prince Edward Island advocacy groups are warning the "Agriculture in the Classroom" program is promoting GM products, Arctic Apples to island students; CBAN rep calls it blatant corporate product promotion for the GM apple

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Food Sovereignty Ghana's opposition to "false impression" given by Parliamentary Appointments Committee chairman, Joseph Osei-Owusu, during vetting of Ag Minister-designate Owusu Afriyie Akoto, that FSG is misleading various agencies, pointing to many other organizations that oppose GMOs

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on planned release of GM Bt cowpea into the market, following successful results in ongoing field trials, according to research project Principal Investigator Dr Mumuni Abdulai, noting the modified cowpea has shown resistance to the pest, decreasing need for pesticide inputs

News: African news site amplifies Genetic Literacy Project columnist's assertions that African countries are pushing past opposition, showing greater interest in adopting GMOs, reports 11 African countries doing GMO field tests

Commentary: African social advocacy NGO shares highlights from it biotech communication clinic for journalists in Ethiopia; NGO's policy advisor told journalists improper communication with media has delayed adoption of biotechnology, misrepresented benefits of the technology

Commentary: African Agricultural Technology Foundation highlights Ugandan Minister for Science and Technology visit to NGO to discuss its projets, including the mandate to provide small farms with improved ag technology

Commentary: Alliance for Science fellow reports the first multi-location field trials of GMO BXW-resistant bananas were planted in Uganda in late February; notes biosafety bill would allow better testing locations

News: Sub-Saharan African data service provider Asoko Insight reports on Kenyan government decision not to lift GMO import ban in spite of of grain shortage, Kenya Agriculture Research and Livestock Organisation (Kalro) director Eliud Kirger noted external support for biotech will not come to Kenya

More Africa items

Asia

News: China Daily reports Vice-Minister of Agriculture remarks at press conference ensure China will support GM food research by enabling development of domestic technological innovation

News: China Daily reports ag ministry press conference announces China has yet to approve any GMOs, though ensures safety of GM productions, notes country will continue biotech research and use caution when introducing and managing the technology

News: Chinese news site reports ag ministry official press conference says while China hasn't approved any GM grains, it continues to encourage transgenic research, despite strict management

News: India's Financial Express reports agriculture ministry likely to retain current maximum sale price

for GM Bt cotton seeds prices for next season; share of Bt variety in total cotton area sown declined to 83 percent in 2016-17 from 91 percent the previous season

Commentary: Writing in an Indian news outlet, former USDA biotech regulator says GM crops are the future, arguing widespread growth for 20 years proves their safety; adds efforts to connect farmers' suicides to cultivation of Bt cotton is a shameless act of the anti-GM lobby

Commentary: Pakistani news columnist questions if country investment in Monsanto seeds would be worth the reward, recommending country license seeds to demand seed quality standards in lieu of paying hefty technology fee upfront, cites concerns seeds harm bees, non-GM crops

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: MEP Jan Huitema tells European Seed new breeding techniques have great potential to mitigate food challenges, adding GM varieties perfectly safe

Commentary: The Beijer Institute responds to December 2014 article on golden rice opposition; says misguided regulations in the case of Golden Rice have cost lives 'and billions of dollars'

Report: Document for Reclaim The Fields' European Assembly, held in January 2017, includes summary of anti-GMO efforts in several countries; note upcoming demonstration against Monsanto and Syngenta in Switzerland on May 20, and international assembly of resistances against GMOs in France from April 28-30

Commentary: GM Freeze director Liz O'Neill writes for The Ecologist, promoting 'Feed me the Truth' campaign targeting UK supermarkets launched in October, notes nine out of 10 supermarket chains have poor performances, criticize sale of unlabeled products from animals given GM feed

News release: Two French agriculture and agri-food players, Fleury Michon and Terrena, announce collaborative launch of the "J'Aime le poulet" program, in partnership with 10 breeders to produce chicken products raised without antibiotics of GM feed

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Writing in Puerto Rican news outlet, Center for Investigative Journalism reporter claims Puerto Rico has become the epicenter of GM seed trials that generate more subsidies for agribusiness firms than taxes paid to the government on an island in its worst fiscal crisis

News: Mexican news outlet reports on environmentalists' warning against modifying the General Biodiversity Law, which they believe promotes commercialization of nature, and the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development, which they claim violates indigenous peoples' rights

Commentary: Cuban news outlet contributors examine economic and environmental benefits of Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology's (Cigb) transgenic maize varieties, say goal of GMOs is to improve food security but "immoral monopolistic practices" of biotech firms is what garners media attention

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on provincial production minister, Gabriel Tortarolo's praise of decision allowing Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) to release its domestically produced GM cotton seeds into the market, breaking the monopoly held by one supplier company

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 - March 7, 2017
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 10:00:45 AM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's newsletter opens with Jon Entine examining recent New York Times coverage of bee health issues and neonicotinoids, suggesting that the newspaper should take a closer look at the science on the issue to prevent more reporting that is factually in accurate. Similarly, Paul Driessen of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow breaks down questionable claims that led to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposing the rusty patched bumblebee gain endangered species protection - a move that could have impacts on farming and beyond.

From Europe, there are articles on gene editing and the regulation of biotechnology, along with a farmer's petition defending glyphosate. From Africa, a journalist calls for Kenya's GMO ban to be lifted and a fact-checking organization disputes claims - based on the International Agency for Research on Cancer's assessment - that glyphosate is dangerous.

There's also the latest piece in Genetic Literacy Project's "GMO: Beyond the Science" series, with Julie Kelly taking a look at how celebrities can have a damaging impact on the public perception of biotechnology.

If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. This will give you access to the articles below as well as a wealth of information on recent news coverage, research and stakeholder activity as well as the ability to network with others. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
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What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Hawaii SEED

Hawaii SEED is a five-island coalition co-founded in 2002 by Hawaii Organic Farmers Association to battle GMOs and conventional agriculture research in the Hawaiian Islands.

The group has recently been

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: New York Times should devote more time and resources to prevent more factually inaccurate reports on bee health, neonics

Kavin Senapathy: Forget "Frankenfoods," nearly everything we eat has been improved via genetics

Paul Driessen: Congress should review and repeal endangered species protection for rusty patched bumblebee after "suspicious" listing

Henry Miller: Proposed chlorpyrifos ban an example of NGO-driven EPA regulation that is "not based on science"

Kenyan journalist: Government should lift "ill-conceived" GMO ban that hinders pursuit of food security

Institution of Engineering and Technology: Unclear whether European Court of Justice has relevant expertise to rule on gene editing

promoting Vandana Shiva's latest docu-drama "Seed: The Untold Story" and raising funds in support of ongoing legislative lobbying, litigation and public relations campaigns in Hawaii, alleging agricultural biotechnology and crop protection products are poisoning the region, displacing native plants and polluting local waterways.

LEARN MORE about Hawaii SEED.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

British farmer uses 38 Degrees platform to call for continued approval of glyphosate, fight "false science and misinformation" from anti-farm groups

Italian researcher explains product - not process - is what's important to scientists, regulators and society when it comes to biotechnology

Julie Kelly: Poorly informed celebrities can "sway public opinion in destructive ways" on topics such as GMOs

Nonprofit fact-checking organization examines complaint to South African Human Rights Commission about glyphosate, highlights research discrediting IARC's conclusions

Pennsylvania State University study identifies genes linked to immunity to pathogens deemed to be main cause of Northern Hemisphere bee deaths

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What's Trending?

Trump executive order starts process of reworking or removing Waters of the United States rule

European Green Party urges supporters to demand three genetically modified maize varieties be blocked

Coalition plans "Consumer Health, Consumer Action and Antimicrobial Resistance" event in mid-March in D.C.

Canadian Parliament agriculture committee schedules hearing Tuesday on proposal to ban imidacloprid

European Commission cancels EDC criteria vote, process could go to Council of Commissioners next

Calendar highlights

March 9-10	March 9	March 9
2nd International Conference on BioScience and Biotechnology (Sri Lanka)	Minnesota NGO Pollinator Friendly Alliance hosts "Best Practices for Pollinators" summit	The Organic Center annual benefit dinner featuring National Public Radio podcast
March 10-11	**March 12-16**	**March 13-15**
Indiana Farm Bureau spring conference featuring discussions on GMOs, antibiotics	Society of Toxicology annual meeting and ToxExpo	American Society of Animal Science Midwest meeting featuring discussion of reducing antibiotic usage

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 6, 2017
Date: Monday, March 6, 2017 9 03:01 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 the launch of new anti-biotechnology campaigns in Canada. In Africa, Nigeria's efforts to establish a regulatory framework around biotechnology remained controversial. Europe's food safety regulator issued a new call for input on approaches to include "weight of evidence" in decisions.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) -- along with activist groups Earth Action PEI, Council of Canadians and Kids Right to Know -- issued an open letter criticizing the webinar "Trashing Food Waste with Technology" for promoting biotechnology and corporate-controlled food. The group questioned that the only speaker in the program was a communications official for the local company Okanagan Specialty Fruits. **See more**. At the same time, CBAN issued a call for supporters to reach out to their MPs in support of GMO labeling. The group highlighted a scheduled House of Commons debate Friday (March 10). **See more**.
- Speaking to News Agency Nigeria, the Nigerian minister of agriculture and rural development said that the country had not adopted GM crops but was taking a "wait and see" approach to the technology. The minister added that Nigeria was "preparing" resources to begin developing its own local biotechnology programs. **See more** Meanwhile, a Reuters article today reviewed how Bt maize adoption in South Africa may be helping to slow the spread of armyworm in the country. **See more**
- The European Food Safety Authority called for input on the its efforts to account for "weight of evidence" and biological relevance in its assessments of new technologies. Feedback on the proposals is due by May 1. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Forbes columnist Senapathy promotes Nestle's refusal to cave to Just Label It pressure to clearly label GM ingredients, adding an overly burdensome ideological regulatory atmosphere prevents GE solutions that can help farmers, the environment and people globally

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor summarizes biotech development in Africa, arguing GM technology holds promise for Africa; adds while international and local NGOs are behind Africa's delayed GMO adoption, Nigeria biotech agencies are starting to push back against their efforts

Campaign: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and other anti-GMO groups condemn "Agriculture in the Classroom" webinar as corporate propaganda designed to develop market for GM apple, highlights criticism by student activist Rachel Parent

Commentary: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network posts letter to provincial education ministers objecting to webinar featuring GM apple as "product placement"; urges removal from high school classrooms

Campaign: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network calls on supporters to contact their MPs in support of mandatory GMO labeling prior to March 10 House of Commons debate, points to polling demonstrating that over 80 percent of Canadians want mandatory labeling

News: Natural Blaze reports Canadian civil society groups sent letter asking Ministers to withdraw support for high school webinar the groups say markets the non-browning GM Arctic Apple; Council of Canadians says advertising masquerading as education is unacceptable

More North America items

Africa

News: Reuters reports on various cropping strategies for mitigating effects of drought across the globe, highlights development of drought-tolerant GM maize in Sub-Saharan Africa, references 2010 study which found that widespread adoption of drought-tolerant varieties could boost maize harvests

Commentary: African agribusiness NGO exec, writing in Huffington Post SA, warns that the agricultural sector must help farmers access seeds to improve yield, pest tolerance; notes climate change brings urgency to initiatives

News: South African news outlet reports on Africa Check's analysis of Inkatha Freedom Party's claims regarding health risks posed by glyphosate use on GM crops, Africa Check noted that while ag department does not routinely check for glyphosate residues in maize and soy, residues are unlikely to harm consumers

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor summarizes biotech development in Africa, arguing GM technology holds promise for Africa; adds while international and local NGOs are behind Africa's delayed GMO adoption, Nigeria biotech agencies are starting to push back against their efforts

Commentary: Alliance for Food Sovereignty publishes declaration developed at Addis Ababa gathering that calls on policy makers to help shift food security narrative away from one that pushes indusrial ag, biotech to one that promotes ecological, culturally appropriate food systems

News: Nigerian minister of agriculture says government taking wait-and-see approach to GMO technology, but government preparing institutes, universities to conduct research on boosting ag production and food security

More Africa items

Asia

News: University of Philippines student ag technology group explains how they promote biotechnology through initiatives such as extension programs to help farmers improve crop yields

Commentary: As part of GMO debate series, Indian news outlet contributor voices concern about GMOs, specifically with regard to monocultures and decline in genetic diversity, advocates caution in applying the technology, warning about unintended consequences

News: Vietnamese news aggregator reports Dekalb Vietnam agrees to biotech training, internship program with Vietnam National University of Agriculture; seed company attracted by success of Monsanto scholarship program

Commentary: Suleman Dawood School of Business, LUMS professor writes for Pakistani business news outlet, examines financial risks of purchasing Monsanto's cotton technology, highlighting problems of seed quality and pest resistance, believes government should ask Monsanto to specify yearly seed-sale targets

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Food Safety Authority seeks feedback from scientific community, risk assessors and EFSA stakeholders on two draft guidance documents on weight of evidence approach and biological relevance of observed effects, with goal of harmonizing methodologies and increasing transparency

Commentary: "Risk Monger" David Zaruk examines minutes of recent meeting involving 23 NGO activists and EU Parliament members, detailing strategies to use opposition to ag industry consolidation and push the public against conventional farming, pointing to collusion between NGOs and EU Parliament

News: Italian news site reports anti-GMO group held demonstration in Crotone, distributed flyers critical of CETA, alleging it will allow massive imports of GM food into Italy, warning GM foods pose health risk to citizens

News: UK's Agrow reports DuPont Pioneer makes limited commercial introduction of its GM insect-resistant Qrome (DP4114) maize to over 100 growers in the US western Corn Belt this year

Study: GenØk study examines stress-tolerant GM plants, claims other transgenes may interact with abiotic stressors, causing pleiotropic effects that affect plant physiology, resulting in product safety issues

Commentary: Author Matt Ridley writes for The Times (UK) on applications of gene editing, highlighting potential to make significant improvements in medicine and agriculture; believes Britain should take a more firm stance in its favor, notes the technology itself should be regulated, but not viewed as dangerous

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO NGO Gene Ethics shares "GM-free scorecard" for upcoming Western Australia election on March 11, highlighting various parties' stances on GM issues, Green and Labor parties both intend to prevent new GM crops in WA, introduce farmer protection laws, amend GMO labeling laws

More Oceania items

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Date: Sunday, March 5, 2017 9 01:37 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

This weekend's global biotechnology developments included the European Greens-European Free Alliance starting a campaign to oppose GM corn authorizations, along with continuing developments on agribusiness mergers.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The EU Greens-European Free Alliance Party called on Europeans to urge their ministries to block authorization of three GM corn varieties, noting that if enough ministries do not oppose the authorizations, they likely will pass. The European Commission will propose in mid-March that the member states approve the authorizations. **See more**.
- The U.K.-based Financial Times reported ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta is nearing EU antitrust approval. **See more on ChemChina-Syngenta**. An agricultural news site reported the Bayer purchase of Monsanto could be completed by the year's end. **See more on Bayer-Monsanto**.

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North America

Commentary: Daily Kos contributor hopes Simplot's potatoes genetically engineered to resist blight can help change public perception on genetic engineering; they will have reduced bruising and black spots

Commentary: Mother Jones' Tom Philpott notes researchers stress conflicts of interest in NAS study, acknowledges conflict of interest does not invalidate study, but says NAS has longstanding issue with conflicts of interest, questions NASEM's standards on issue

Campaign: Food & Water Watch urges supporters to contact USDA regarding improvements in approval process for GE crops; says current process full of loopholes and gaps, and entirely voluntary in some cases

Video: Cornell Alliance for Science produces video on Tanzania's field trials of drought-tolerant GM corn, with goal of helping farmers meet challenges posed by climate change

Study: Dow researchers examine biochemical composition of stacked-trait maize and non-GM hybrid maize, find greater differences between hybrid and parent versus stacked and parent plants; note implications for regulation

Review: Mashable promotes Netflix's movie 'Okja' that features GM creature sought by evil corporation; says it is "likely to be legendary"

More North America items

Africa

News: The Guardian reports AATF researchers developing pod-borer resistant Bt cowpea; notes pest considerably damages cowpea, an important legume in Africa's dry savannas

Commentary: Nnimmo Bassey, director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, voices concern about interconnectedness of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) and National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), claims NABDA's job is to put GMOs on the market whether Nigerians want them or not

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports ag minister says Nigeria has not embraced GMOs despite widespread acceptance in U.S., wants Nigerian researchers to find solutions

News release: South African Parliament member, president of Inkatha Freedom Party says he wants to investigate safety, human rights issues regarding GM food, pesticide use in the country; claims glyphosate danger is "incontrovertible"

News: Italian news site reports Burkina Faso cotton yields rebound after ditching Monsanto's Bt cotton, which produced lower quality cotton that sold for less; Monsanto says misuse of product was responsible for poor results

More Africa items

Asia

News: Pakistani news site reports government negotiating with Monsanto to acquire advanced GM cotton technology, technical expertise for five years

News: U.K.-based Financial Times reports ChemChina's Syngenta purchase nears EU antitrust approval following concessions that include divestments in Syngenta's European businesses and small divestments in the US

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture writes for local magazine, examines widespread opposition to GMOs in spite of overwhelming scientific evidence supporting the technology, believes the technology will remain unavailable to developing nations until consumers in rich nations change their minds

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italian research expert refutes framing of GMO regulation "reboot" thesis by social scientist Jenifer Kuzma; explains product - not process - is what's important to scientists, regulators and society when it comes to biotechnology

Study: Belgian researchers frame how scientists can communicate about biotechnology to "de-problematize GMOs," note the end product matters, not the production method; the it's easy to show criticisms not integral to the technology

News: Russian news outlet reports on Russian Academy of Sciences' defense of GMOs, highlighting Commission to Combat Pseudoscience and Falsification of Scientific Research's preparation of memo on dangers of pseudoscientific reports on GMOs, contrasts with opposition from government officials

Study: Belgian, IRRI researchers determine biofortified crops would benefit consumers economically, nutritionally; local supply chains would need to be upgraded

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM amplifies Plos ONE report claiming to demonstrate conflicts of interest in National Academies of Scientists' recent report on GMOs, claims it demonstrates a lack of independence and impartiality in reports published by National Research Council

Campaign: The Greens/European Free Alliance calls on citizens to tell their ministries to block approval of GM maize varieties, noting the regulations may pass unless enough member states' experts vote against

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on Roberto Miranda of Vice Ministry of Defense of Consumer and Consumer Rights' recent statement regarding checks on all products containing GMOs, following passage of legislation requiring labeling of products containing GMOs

News: Chihuahua, Mexico news outlet reports on Sagarpa's consultation with indigenous peoples in Rosales and Delicias regarding cultivation of GM cotton in compliance with new rules, officials asked Tarahumara community for consent, noting GM cotton poses no health or environmental risks

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: U.K.-based legal news outlet Lexology reports on Queensland, Australia's Gene Technology Act (2016), which automatically adopts Commonwealth laws on gene technology, but allows Queensland to opt-out of future changes that aren't in the state's interests, highlights various biotech applications

Commentary: Australian news outlet contributor criticizes Green Party for promoting scientific consensus on issues like climate change, but ignoring it regarding GMOs, highlighting their call for a moratorium, notes they promote emotions over facts

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - March 2, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2017 10:01 52 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a report on European NGOs planning campaigns to oppose agribusiness mergers. The National Academies of Sciences announced it will seek executive committee members to develop strategy for the Science Breakthroughs 2030 initiative. NGOs announced an appeal to a ruling that upheld a European Commission decision to allow the import of Monsanto's GM soy variety.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Politico Pro Europe released meeting minutes from European NGOs -- including Friends of the Earth, INKOTA and Corporate Europe Observatory -- planning opposition to mergers in the seed and pesticide industry, including the Bayer purchase of Monsanto. **See more**.
- The NAS announced it is looking for nominations for an executive committee to develop strategy for the Science Breakthroughs 2030 initiative. The announcement said committee members will "gather insights from scientists and engineers in the traditional fields of science in food and agriculture, seek ideas from scientists in other disciplines whose knowledge, tools, and techniques might be applied to food and agricultural challenges and organize interdisciplinary dialogues to uncover novel, potentially transformational, approaches to advancing food and agricultural science." **See more**.
- Testbiotech, ENSSER and environmental organization Sambucus announced they would file an appeal in the EU Court of Justice to challenge a previous ruling upholding the European Commission's decision to allow imports of Monsanto's Intacta GM soy. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Karl Haro von Mogel of Biology Fortified describes new GMOs Revealed Infographics campaign, with goal of explaining how various GE traits work using accessible images and text backed by scholarly references, the first infographic examines the Bt trait, and future graphics will include virus resistance, non-browning traits, herbicide tolerance, and animal traits such as sterile mosquitoes

Commentary: Pro-GMO food writer Julie Kelly writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines troubling trend of Hollywood celebrities spreading misconceptions about GMOs, notes they are filling in the information void left by scientists and ag communities who are reluctant to engage with the public

Commentary: Kristina Hubbard of Organic Seed Alliance writes for Montana news outlet, voicing opposition to state Senate's passage of bill that will eliminate local control over seeds, arguing it is an "indiscriminate reaction" to initiatives in other states that ban GM crops, belives Montana farmers can work out disputes themselves

Commentary: Canadian blogger, a biology professor, says anti-GMO organization Non-GMO Project uses false information to generate fear of GE crops and derived foods; says there's no valid evidence that existing GM crops are harmful

More North America items

Africa

News: Senegalese news site reports President favors GMO use but wants conditions to meet possible risks

Commentary: South African news outlet examines claims that organic foods are healthier, notes there is little evidence that organic foods are more nutritious than conventional, but notes that eating organic does reduce pesticide exposure, highlighting human health risks associated with pesticides

News: Bloomberg reports approval withheld for Kenya's GM corn trials due to confusion regarding whether the GMO import ban applies to controlled growing tests

More Africa items

Asia

Event: Indian news site reports a panel discussion on environmental issues related to GMOs, Bt cotton and organic farming will be held Mar. 3 in Mitramandal Chowk; farmer activist, representative from NGO Dharamitra among speakers

Announcement: US-China Economic and Security Review Commission announces public hearing scheduled for March 16 on "China's Pursuit of Next Frontier Tech: Computing, Robotics, and Biotechnology"

Interview: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture interviews Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) joint director (research) KV Prabhu on development of GM mustard, he explains thorough trials and safety assessments, believes release of a summary of the biosafety assessment is sufficiently transparent

More Asia items

Europe

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service reports European Commission proposed changes to comitology process; notes some fear changes will lead to longer approval process or de facto moratorium for GE products and pesticides

News: French news site science writer reports French farming association wants to increase land planted with non-GMO soy to 200,000 ha. by 2020, says it will take advantage of demand and replace some GM soy now being imported

News release: Testbiotech, ENSSER and environmental organization Sambucus announce joint filing of appeal in EU Court of Justice challenging General Court ruling upholding EU Commission decision to allow import of Monsanto's Intacta GM soybean variety, citing potential human health risks

News: Politico reports on recent meeting in Berlin where several NGOs, including Friends of the Earth, discussed strategy to opposing ag industry mergers, with focus on Bayer-Monsanto deal, Friends of the Earth and SumOfUs have already drafted a letter to be sent to Compeition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian farming news site reports US trials of conventional Brazilian corn varieties show high yields, have lower production costs than GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on recent Hawke's Bay Regional Planning Committee meeting, with discussion on proposed GMO moratorium, the committee recommended the council signal its intent to take a precautionary approach to GMO regulation, pending outcomes of several court cases throughout New Zealand

More Oceania items

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Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 9:02 09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration approving the commercialization of a new GE potato from J.R. Simplot. European news outlets highlighted the ongoing discussion over how gene editing and other new plant breeding techniques should be regulated in the European Union.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration announced the approval of three new genetically engineered potatoes developed by J.R. Simplot. The Associated Press report on the development was widely syndicated in U.S. media. Initial advocacy response was limited. However, a Russia Today report criticized the claim that the potatoes would reduce chemical usage. **See more**.
- European news outlets carried commentary on the potential regulatory process for crops developed through gene editing and other new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In the German-language publication Greenpeace Magazin, an organic agriculture researcher highlighted the potential environmental benefits of crops gene edited to resist drought or increase yields. In Engineering & Technology, a Belgium-based correspondent highlighted the European Court of Justice's history of conservative and contradictory decisions on new technologies and suggested the court is likely to stifle innovation in the region. **See more**.

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North America

News: Associated Press reports EPA, FDA approve three types of GE Simplot potatoes modified to resist the pathogen that caused the Irish potato famine; agencies say they will be available for sale fall 2017

News: Capital Press reports Amalgamated Sugar raising funds for GMO education campaign, with officials saying they have raised $16M over one year in order to 'improve public perceptions' about GMOs

News: US ag site quotes Western Sugar Cooperative scientist who says food companies should be proud of GMOs; adds if consumers understand environmental benefits, they're more likely to accept the technology

Report: PLOS report authored by Council for Responsible Genetics board member Sheldon Krimsky and Food & Water Watch employee Tim Schwab claims to demonstrate conflicts of interest among committee members in National Academies of Sciences' recent GE crop study, cite financial and institutional links

News: Good Fruit reports GMO debate likely to become more confusing as new technologies blur lines between conventional crossbreeding and genetic engineering, challenges out-of-date regulatory strategies

News: Good Fruit reports Rutgers researchers experimenting with gene-editing technology to make wine grapes resistant to downy mildew; if successful, the research will create Chardonnay grapes that reduce fungicide use

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Slow Food Uganda official says group is "sensitizing farmers against" using GMOs while promoting "best farming practices" to put products on the market; Italian ambassador says Ugandan products don't make world market in part because they are genetically modified

News: ISAAA reports Ugandan journalists at media workshop on Uganda's biosafety bill call for public campaign to promote GMO knowledge

News: Crop Protection News reports long-term project to introduce and develop GM drought-resistant maize in Africa billed a success by Monsanto, one of it drivers; critics say the project is a Trojan horse

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan encourages robust, scientific debate on genetic engineering use, notes GE crop use can increase yields, help solve hunger problem

Commentary: Reporting that India does not yet have a precedent for SynBio product regulation, contributor to Mumbai-based Food and Beverage News says its 'high time' for regulators to determine the pathway to approve such products

News: China News Service reports on Ag Ministry's statement that GM farm products with government approval are safe to use, at recent conference on supervision of GM plants, the ministry noted developing transgenic technology is a national priority, calling on related departments to ensure safe use

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: Germany's Greenpeace Magazine features head of Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, who outlines potential environmental benefits of gene editing; advocates case-by-case approach instead of demonizing gene editing

Commentary: Engineering and Technology contributor says European Court of Justice is slow moving and offers confused decisions, questions whether it's the right body to legislate gene editing; adds Court may stifle European research

Commentary: Researcher Marcel Kuntz criticizes 'Responsible Research and Innovation' approach to science governance, says emphasis on public engagement ignores reality of ideological activists and amounts to coercion

Commentary: Czech conspiracy theorist blogger claims agribusinesses discriminate against Eastern Europeans by selling them "inferior food" containing GMOs, vaccines to reduce population

News: Bosnian news site reports Serbian government testing finds no GMOs in food samples

News release: National Food Institute of the Technical University of Denmark says there is 'no evidence' that genetic material from the food we eat is absorbed into the bloodstream; says contradictory studies likely had errors

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Brazilian biotech expert Dr. Maria Jose Amstalden's advice to Ugandan MPs to leave gaps in National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill to allow for adoption of new technologies, noting Brazil is currently facing a problem with technology overlap

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: ISAAA reports Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator receives application for GM sorghum field test

More Oceania items

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Feb. 28, 2017
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:43:22 PM

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 regulator and media commentary on Nigeria's biosafety regulations. In Europe, an anti-biotechnology research group announced that it would begin efforts to help regulators enact a new approach to research and innovation.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Regulators continued to respond to controversy over Nigeria's efforts to commercialize GM crops. In a brief article, Daily Trust reported that the a spokesperson for the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) had responded to a report on GM crops from the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council. NABDA assistant director Rose Gidado said that the committee reviewing the issue had not included any researchers or non-advocacy participants, thus biasing its conclusions. Media outlets in the region also continued to report on NABDA's launch of a training program to help local regulators identify GM seeds. **See more**.
- Activist research group GenØk issued a statement today highlighting its plan to promote the "responsible research and innovation" philosophy for regulating research and development in Europe. The approach, a reformulation of the precautionary principle, emphasized assessing environmental and societal impacts of scientific discoveries "in an early phase" of the research. GenØk explained that the approach "stresses the importance of public engagement and to have iterative, inclusive and participatory methodologies in all stages of the research and innovation process." The group added that it plans to issue guidance on how to implement the approach. **See more**.
- Activists also continued to promote the Brazilian Ministry for Agrarian Development's recently released report highlighting studies that countered the scientific consensus on GM crop safety. Spain's Ecologistas en Acción and Africa's La Via Campesina both used the report to call for a renewed focus on agroecological farming and research. **See more**.

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North America

News: Reuters reports agricultural traders and biotechnology firms finding ways to make fish oil substitutes from grains and algae to cash in on health fads that have led to scarcity of the fatty acids; genetically engineered canola in the works that makes long chain omega-3 fatty acids

Commentary: Big-AgWatch says since GM crops were introduced in the US, corn yields have increased 37 percent, soybean yields by 21 percent; yield improvements will be crucial to feed growing world population as land availability switches from ag use to living space

News: Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting reports federal officials seeking public comment on proposed regulations to better oversee next-generation food modification; researchers say increased precision of gene editing could lead to vegetables with boosted nutritional value, fruits that don't spoil

Commentary: Grain Growers of Canada columnist, a farmer, says 90 percent or more of country's canola,

corn, soybeans and sugar beets are genetically engineered to provide better control of yield-reducing weeds and pests

News release: USFRA "GMOs and Sustainability - Go Hand 'n Hand" panel discussion (March 4) at Commodity Classic in San Antonio to feature different perspectives from Culver's CEO, dietitian, USFRA past chairwoman, American Sugarbeet Growers Association president

Commentary: Scientific American contributor lists five ways to defeat those who are "waging war" on science, notes scientists are important to help the public navigate complex issues such as genetic engineering

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science contributor says 'pro-science' individuals increasingly engaged in Ghana, especially in GMO debate; notes battle lines being drawn ahead of GM crops' commercialization next year

News: Nigerian news site Blueprint reports National Agricultural Seed Council scientists receive training to detect GM seeds to ensure truthful labeling; head of Nigeria Biotechnology Development Agency says Council best able to alleviate public fear of GM seeds

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency's (NABDA) training program for National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) staff on detection of GMOs, NASC Director General Philips Ojo noted officials will be able to differentiate between GM and organic seeds for farmers' benefit

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency's (NABDA) criticism of National Inter-Religious Council's (NIREC) investigation of GMO safety as biased, urging Nigerians to disregard NIREC's claims

News: Nigerian news site reports country's National Agriculture Biotechnology Development Agency promoting benefits of GMOs to Catholic Church to garner support for refined national approach to introduce biotechnology in agriculture

News: Ugandan news site reports banana wilt disease and exhausted soil destroying banana yield in Central Uganda, financially devastating area; ag expert says disease- and climate-resistant varieties being developed using conventional crossbreeding and genetic engineering, bananas could thrive in more fertile soil

Commentary: La Via Campesina amplifies Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) report examining 750 studies on GMOs, argues the report reinforces urgent need for critical analyses of current agricultural and agrarian development model, and for a search for alternatives

Commentary: Kenyan news outlet contributor calls on government to lift GM import ban, noting it is ill-conceived and hinders the nation's adoption of biotech to help fight food insecurity, criticizes government delays, notes safety studies relied on when the ban was instituted have since been debunked

News: Swazi Observer reports that members of the ministry of agriculture said they were dedicated to working with the legislature to allow GM cotton cultivation in the country; noted success in India

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on recent publication by Brazil's Ministry for Agrarian Development reviewing 750 studies on GMOs claiming to demonstrate hazards and uncertainties, highlights development of GM mustard and current use of Bt cotton, Charu Dutt Mayee of South Asia Biotechnology Centre highlighted its success

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GenØk staffers highlight 'emerging governance approach' that assesses environmental and social impacts early in research process; note plans to help implement the philosophy across EU programs such as Horizon 2020

Commentary: Investment news site columnist says alternative to more land use for crops is to make land more productive, similar to Green Revolution gains from better seeds, irrigation and chemical fertilizers; EU's GM crop ban increasingly out of step with practices elsewhere

News: Swiss Genetic-free Alliance reports on German Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety's (BVL) warning that DIY genetic engineering may be punishable by law, Swiss authorities have not yet issued a similar warning

Commentary: Spanish anti-GMO NGO Ecologistas en Accion amplifies Brazilian ag ministry's review of 750 studies on GMOs, claims the publication demonstrates lack of scientific consensus on GMO safety, following in footsteps of 2015 ENSSER publication

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Nicaraguan environmental expert Álvaro Fonseca writes for local news outlet in opposition to GM maize adoption, arguing it will threaten native maize varieties, and pointing to recent National Academy of Sciences report questioning yield advantage

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on recent economic summit in Hastings hosted by Ngati Kahugnunu, where exporters and growers associated with Pure Hawke's Bay promoted economic benefits of remaining GMO-free, John Bostock argued government goal of doubling exports by 2025 will not be possible with GM low-end commodities

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:18:56 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 report from Brazil's Ministry of Agrarian Development, which highlighted studies that questioned the scientific consensus on GM crop safety. In the U.S., Center for Food Safety called on Midwestern shoppers to help it identify grocery stores where Arctic brand GM apples were being sold.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development issued an English version of its scholarly literature review, "Transgenic crops hazards and uncertainties: More than 750 studies disregarded by the GMOs regulatory bodies." Activist groups Third World Network and GMWatch amplified the announcement, highlighting research from China and India that purports to show limited reduction in pesticide use as well as human and animal immunological reactions to Bt toxins. **See more**.
- Center for Food Safety launched a new campaign calling on shoppers in the U.S. Midwest to help identify the grocery stores where the new non-browning Arctic Apple is being sold. The NGO asked supporters to speak with customer service about whether the apples were being sold in the store, to document the packaging and then send the store's information to the activist group. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Campaign: Center for Food Safety asks supporters to help identify the 10 Midwest grocery stores selling Arctic Apples, report locations to the NGO

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter celebrates passage Montana bill aimed to keep GMO regulation at state vs local level, saying it would promote uniform seed regulation, prevent counties from banning GM crops based on ill-informed campaigns that limit farmers' options

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health criticizes US Right to Know's campaign demanding that mainstream media stop publishing articles by scientists and doctors unless they are given equal time, says they are just a marketing group promoting organic food

News: Wall Street Journal reports on growing interest in DIY gene editing, highlighting workshops available at Brooklyn community lab, Genspace, as well as concerns that CRISPR amateurs may inadvertently release something harmful into the environment

Commentary: Veterinarian's syndicated column warns readers that GMO ingredients used in pet foods could cause abnormalities in their animals' liver enzyme levels, fatty liver disease, cites Seralini study finding ultra-low doses of glyphosate caused increased likelihood of fatty liver disease in rats

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Authority CEO Eric Okoree's announcement of release of biosafety guidelines for GM crops, which he notes is a major boost to Ghana's capacity to regulate GM technology

News: Reuters reports GM corn adoption, cold weather and rains have curbed spread of fall armyworm in South Africa, according to Grain-SA, neighboring countries without GM crops, such as Zambia and Zimbabwe, are suffering bigger losses

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on FAO's plans to spend millions to combat spread of fall armyworm, highlighting investment in pheromone traps as conventional pesticides have failed, specialist Pasipamire Wesa lamented gap between farming community and agrochemical industry

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Writing in international development news site, CropLife representative profiles Africa Biofortified Sorghum, noting its work to tackle chronic vitamin A deficiency in children, improve levels of zinc and iron

News: Press Trust of India reports Environment Ministry has received over 700 comments from multiple stakeholders, including farmers and researchers, on food and environmental safety assessment of GM mustard, the ministry's sub-committee will submit its final report to biotech regulator GEAC after reviewing the comments

News: Indian news outlet reports on Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development's recent report examining 750 studies on hazards and uncertainties of GMOs, several of which were conducted in India, highlights Indian study demonstrating poor performance of Bt cotton when grown alongside other crops

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Asian Age, promotes upcoming series of events commemorating Gandhi's actions for independence, voices support of free exchange of seeds and opposition to Monsanto's intellectual property rights as well as GM mustard

News: Bangkok Post reports experts say soaring global demand for food exposes limitations of traditional farming; promote ag-tech, adding improved crop varieties and production methods can mitigate effects of crop pests

Commentary: Voices for Biodiversity examines negative impact of monocultures on biodiversity, highlights Indian organic cotton company Chetna Organic's efforts to encourage farmers to shift to organic practices free from GM seeds and chemical pesticides and fertilizers

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: UK NGO Beyond GM launches survey on consumer opinion on GMOs, hoping to communicate with chefs, caterers and others in the food service industry, noting increased support for ingredients developed via synbio

News: French news outlet reports on Burkina Faso's adoption and subsequent rejection of Monsanto's Bt cotton, highlighting decline in cotton fiber quality, a former Monsanto employee indicated that great errors were committed and that the company did not do what it should have done

More Europe items

Latin America

Report: Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) publishes review of 750 studies on GMOs that have been ignored by regulatory bodies, highlighting evidence of negative impacts on human health and

the environment, as well as socioeconomic issues

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies recently published report by Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) examining 750 studies on GMOs that have been disregarded by regulatory bodies, argues the report demonstrates lack of scientific consensus on GMO safety, as well as "bad science and negligence" of regulators

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies report by Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development entitled "Transgenic Crops hazards and uncertainties:More than 750 studies disregarded by the GMOs regulatory bodies," which examines health hazards, environmental risk and agronomic or socioeconomic problems

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on success of FAO-sponsored agroecology operation at La Aurora farm, FAO highlighted achievements of productive and economic stability, cost reduction, zero use of toxic products, stabilization of production and care of the field

Commentary: Huffington Post contributor recounts recent visit to Oaxaca, highlighting poster exhibit on corn at Instituto de Artes Graficas de Oaxaca (IAGO), with focus on anti-transgenic maize messaging, IAGO director Inari Resendiz noted Oaxaca has no need for GM corn due to its rich corn 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

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 27, 2017
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:41:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Today's Favorable Outcomes newsletter opens with pieces recommending scientists get engaged in the creation of regulations overseeing gene-edited crops in Europe and suggestions for reforming the International Agency for Research on Cancer following its controversial monograph on glyphosate. Other articles deal with deceptive claims about GMOs, antibiotics and "pesticide-free" organic farming, as well as shining a light on an activist-promoted study that used massive doses of glyphosate to fuel claims that it is dangerous. There's also a blog in advance of the Environmental Working Group's annual "Dirty Dozen" report raising alarm about the presence of pesticides on produce.

If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. This will give you access to the articles below as well as a wealth of information on recent news coverage, research and stakeholder activity as well as the ability to network with others. To share articles, simply 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: Center for Media and Democracy

The Center for Media and Democracy is a progressive watchdog organization that runs various online campaigns critical of free trade, corporations and "big agribusiness." It is one of only three founding board members of the U.S. Right To Know (USRTK) campaign that used Freedom of Information Act filings and lawsuits to attack public sector scientists and researchers.

Stories Worth Sharing

Nature editorial: Scientists should "push the issue" on regulation of gene-edited plants so "reason and science" prevail

American Chemistry Council-funded paper offers suggestions on improving International Agency for Research on Cancer

Iranian Genetics Society leader: Genetically modified crops necessary to ensure country's food security

Farm Babe: Deceptive marketing about GMOs, antibiotics make these eight food companies ones to avoid

Kevin Folta: Study feeding rats "massive amounts of soy milk spiked with gigantic doses of herbicide" caters to anti-GMO movement

Genetic Literacy Project: Organic marketers and anti-GMO activists "exaggerate" efforts to avoid chemicals in organic farming

Emil Karlson: Five ways GMOs are good for the environment

Taiwan entomology professor: U.S. EPA, WHO have shown glyphosate to be safe, organic and GMO-free labels are just a marketing ploy

Margaret Karembu: Europe benefits from biotech trade while blocking use of advanced technology in Africa

The Center for Media and Democracy is also part of open records act lawsuits seeking U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's emails. It has run multiple campaigns attacking the use of pesticides, GMOs, antibiotics and other non-organic farming practices.

LEARN MORE about the center, which runs the PRWatch and SourceWatch websites.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Alliance for Food and Farming: Study shows Environmental Working Group undermining healthy eating with Dirty Dozen fear-mongering

Princeton University researcher highlights role of companion animals in spreading antibiotic resistance, discourages finger-pointing at farms

Cornell Alliance for Science to offer free, five-week course on "The Science and Politics of GMOs" beginning March 1

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Meeting planned Tuesday to consider latest European EDC criteria proposal; ECPA seeks restoration of derogation language

Tyson to switch to no-antibiotics-ever chicken by June

Ex-USDA entomologist seeks to revive whistleblower claim that agency silenced his research on neonics

Bill to replace Des Moines Water Works with regional water authority advances in Iowa legislature

French NGO promotes test results finding pesticides, EDCs in hair samples from politicians, leaders of activist groups

Calendar highlights

February 25-March 5	February 27-March 1	February 28
Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris	Farm Bureau advocacy conference in Washington, D.C.	European Commission committee meeting on endocrine disruptor criteria
February 28	**March 1-3**	**March 2**
Friends of Family Farmers information session on Oregon farming legislation	National Pork Industry forum in Atlanta	USDA chief scientist listening session on future of U.S. agriculture

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Feb. 24-26, 2017
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 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 included a Kenyan agricultural committee refusing to lift a GMO ban.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Kenyan news site Mediamax reported biotechnology experts were surprised that the Parliament's agricultural committee opposed lifting the ban on GMOs. **See more**.
- A Filipino news site reported a Sugar Regulatory Administration official said it expects to release high fructose corn syrup regulations in about a week. SRA chief Anna Rosario Paner said the regulations will require importers to declare what percentage of a product is GMO. **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: Reuters reports new US ambassador to China Branstad plans to prioritize gaining quicker approval of GM traits for corn and other US agricultural exports headed to China

Commentary: USRTK posts group letter from public interest groups to USA Today expressing concern that the paper has been publishing ACSH-member columns without noting corporate funding

Commentary: GLP guest columnist, CEO of Center for Food Integrity, says the ethical choice is to embrace technology that preserves natural resources, feeds growing population; adds biotechnology can save lives in Africa

News: Idaho Business Review reports, in response to consumer pressure for food companies to switch to non-GMO ingredients, the Idaho sugar industry is launching a media campaign on GM crop science

Commentary: Food Babe maintains Snopes untrustworthy after changing her blog post about health hazards of glyphosate to "False"; alleges Monsanto operative behind change; calls on readers to demand Snopes retract response to glyphosate story, spread word Snopes deceitful

Commentary: Kevin Folta refutes accusations by Food Babe Vani Hari by explaining she took statements out of context, twisted facts to vilify him after he told Snopes reporter Hari's blog post on glyphosate's dangers was based on information from anti-GMO group

Commentary: Organic & Non-GMO Report editor notes food corn buyers say Syngenta's Enogen GM corn is contaminating non-GMO white corn fields, Nebraska specialty grains owner compares it to StarLink scandal

Commentary: Alliance for Human Research Protection summarizes US Right to Know information requests, says academics were paid to promote 'GMO propaganda'

More North America items

Africa

News: African business newspaper reports Kenyan county governor maintains GM cotton is essential to reviving textile industry; cotton farmers say country should ban importation of second-hand cotton clothes

Commentary: Belgian news site reports Tanzanian legislation would criminalize seed exchange in Tanzania; notes you can't share Monsanto, Syngenta seed due to IP issues; says IP seed rights was condition of development aid from New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project guest columnist, CEO of Center for Food Integrity, says the ethical choice is to embrace technology that preserves natural resources, feeds growing population; adds biotechnology can save lives in Africa

News: Mozambique news agency reports Mozambican authorities testing GM maize in Chokwe Agricultural Station, hope to identify drought-tolerant and insect-resistant traits

Commentary: Ghana news site guest columnist and ag school grad criticizes Food Sovereignty Ghana's anti-GMO sentiments; adds that GMOs can thwart destructive armyworms, help attain food security

More Africa items

Asia

Study: Chinese researchers examine off-target effects of Bt rice on non-target pest predators, find no statistically significant differences between transgenic and non-transgenic crops

News: Pakistani news site reports head of Pakistan Engineering Council says two local companies have successfully developed Bt cotton seeds, urges government to rely on indigenous resources

News: Reuters reports new US ambassador to China Branstad plans to prioritize gaining quicker approval of GM traits for corn and other US agricultural exports headed to China

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Slow Food warns merged agrochemical companies could challenge European regulations over authorization, labeling of GMOs as obstacles to growth, trade

Event: EFSA announces Scientific Panel on GMOs Draft Agenda for meeting March 1-2 in Parma, Italy; applications for authorization for GM maize, oilseed rape, cotton and soybean will be considered

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO says EC proposal to revise comitology regulation to eliminate abstentions, make votes public doesn't go far enough; says crop approvals should require qualified majority

Commentary: Agence France-Presse reports France imports GM soy for animal feed, French citizens unaware they eat products from animals raised on GM feed; says industry stifles controversy over GMOs' effect on human health, but claims GM crops' negative impact on biodiversity and "massive levels" of herbicide residue on food are proven

News release: EFSA links to survey to help improve how it communicates the 'scientific uncertainties' of its food safety assessments; notes survey is being jointly run by eight EU Member States

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news site reports biosafety committee has not met since October, officials say there is debate regarding authorizing Monsanto GM maize; has been more than 4 years since last GM variety authorized

Commentary: Mexican news site reports farmer says GM seed presence mocks Mexican farmers, countryside; will eventually force farmer to sell land, go begging

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports a group of exporters and growers from Hawke's Bay promoting the economic benefits of keeping Hawke's Bay GM Free; local farmer highlights price premiums

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports industry group WA Farmers says organic industry in Australia needs to change its zero tolerance to presence of GMOs in organic crops

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 Google penalizing an anti-biotechnology website, possibly for "fake news" reporting, by removing it from its search engine. Reporting continued on agribusiness mergers.

Consolidated highlights include:

- A search engine optimization site reported that Google delisted anti-biotech site Natural News from its search engine. noting one blogger called Mike Adams' site "one of the most wretched hives of scum and quackery on the Internet." **See more**.
- A Reuters article cited unnamed sources who said that European antitrust regulators are ready to approve the Dow-DuPont merger. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: In Agri-Pulse, founding chairman of World Food Program suggests new Rockefeller Foundation head Dr. Raj Shah will continue to build on foundation's leadership in agriculture and food security; adds Shah supports use of biotechnology to boost food production

News: Politico reports that Trump administration's pick for ambassador to China plans to highlight mutual benefits of trade, push for speedy approvals of GM traits

Commentary: Food Dive contributor reports that Earth Fare grocery chain is removing GM ingredients from hundreds of its private label food products; notes that consumers still perceive GM-free products as healthier

Letter to the editor: Tucson news site reader says in forever-changing world climate, companies like Monsanto produce drought, insect and herbicide-resistant seeds and should be welcomed

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA, Africa regional office (ISSSA) AfriCenter Director Margaret Karembu examines ways in which European NGOs hinder biotech adoption in Africa, highlights importance of brining modern African farmers modern technologies

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Elioda Tumwesigye's recent meeting with Brazilian Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Animal Supply, Blairo Maggi, with goal of leaning how Brazil has used biotech to increase ag productivity

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Director General Lucy Ogbadu's emphasis that farmers will be able to adopt GMOs by choice, not under compulsion, and her rejection of claims that the agency is being funded and promoted by Monsanto

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Agricultural Seed Council's (NASC) training of 20 seed scientists on how to detect GMOs at National Agricultural Biotechnology Development Agency, Agency Director Philip Ojo noted that since GMOs are not currently on the market, it is important to know how to detect them

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Negros Occidental Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr.'s welcoming of Sugar Regulatory Administration's (SRA) move to regulate high fructose corn syrup imports, noting it will help the sugar industry, as HFCS is cheap, highly subsidized and made from GM corn

News: Bangladeshi finance news outlet reports on President Md Abdul Hamid's call on ag scientists and researchers to invent new technologies and strategies to mitigate effects of climate change, as well as crops with improved nutrition to boost food security

News: The Daily Star highlights potential challenges of organic production in Bangladesh, presenting organic production as solution to environmental issues associated with chemical-intensive agriculture

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Science Business reports on recent U.S. patent decision over CRISPR-Cas9, says regardless of exclusive rights Europe remains behind in commercializing gene editing technology

News: Bulgarian news site reports NGO National Association for Consumer Protection claims Commission for Consumer Protection hasn't inspected food for GMOs in 2 years, says Bulgarian people may be buying GM food unaware

News: Life Sciences Intellectual Property Review reports on recent Competitiveness Council meeting were EU Council members agreed that IP is a main driver of productivity and economic growth for companies, the meeting reiterated call on EU Commission to further analyse patent law with regard to biotech and GE

News: Swiss NGO reports EU member states want to ban patents on conventionally bred plants, animals due to loopholes; Commission's opinion is only GE plants and animals can be patented when additional gene incorporated in genome

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Nicaraguan news site reports NGO Alliance Seeds of Identity members want government to ban GMO imports into country, fear loss of "genetic heritage" and environmental damage

News: Cuban news site reports Cuba's advances in biotechnology highlighted during BioProcess Congress, expert says biotechnology raises quality of crops, soils and yields

News: Brazilian news site reports pests developing resistance to GM crops because farmers do not plant "refuge areas" to help stem resistance as technologists recommend; agricultural director considers mandating refuge plantings with GM crops

News: Peruvian news site reports country's GMO moratorium difficult to enforce, some government officials favor introducing GM crops and companies apply pressure to change the law, but biotech still has

staunch detractors in Peru

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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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news from France that an activist requested a full public trial over his agricultural vandalism activities. In Switzerland, the country's Science Committee recommended that food manufacturers incorporate a non-GMO label to compete with neighboring countries. Media outlets in the U.S. and Europe continued to report on pending agricultural industry mergers.

Consolidated highlights include:

- In France, an activist affiliated with the group Faucheurs Volontaires (volunteer reapers) refused an automatic sentence over his participation in the vandalism of a field of herbicide-tolerant rapeseed. The move would have allowed the defendant to skip a trial. Instead, he will appear before a criminal court in September. The activist will also appear before a court in May over his refusal to offer a DNA sample. **See more**.
- Switzerland's Science Committee for the Council of States issued a recommendation that would relax the country's GMO labeling regulations, noting that - unlike in Switzerland - neighboring countries utilized the labels when animals were fed GM feed. A proposal from national councilor Jacques Bourgeois, which would adjust the rules in order to allow local farmers to be more competitive, received unanimous approval from the committee. **See more**.
- U.S. and European media outlets continued to report on pending agricultural industry mergers. Politico reported that Dow and DuPont offered further concessions to European regulators, after a review found that the current merger proposal would not address concerns about monopolistic practices. In the U.S., the National Farmers Union president argued that the mergers would reduce competition and limit farmers' choice of inputs. **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: Tech Times reports on UC Davis biotech expert Alison Van Eenennaam's recent speech at AAAS' annual meeting, in which she highlighted her research on developing hornless dairy cattle, and noted the future of gene edited animals relies on regulatory decisions

News release: Cornell Alliance for Science says free, five-week introductory online course, "The Science and Politics of the GMO," launches March 1, 2017; Cornell professor says course will offer information literacy tools

News: Chicago-based Institute of Food Technologists reports on its recent debate on GMOs; Sunny Gilbert of Cofactor Genomics highlighted many benefits of GMOs, pointing to golden rice and Arctic apples, while Joel Warady of Enjoy Life Foods noted he is against GMOs because his consumers don't want them

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science recounts recent pro-science rally in Boston, amplifies AAAS President Barbara Schaal's emphasis on importance of science for improving agriculture, and other speakers' call on scientists to increase communication

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins recaps recent national call-in involving 5,000 people, urges supporters to sign up to host Regeneration Meetings or house parties in their communities, announces plans to roll out #ConsumerRevolution campaigns

Campaign: March Against Monsanto says Nestle Corporation conspicuously absent from food manufacturers vowing to label GM ingredients in products; highlights new Food Revolution and Just Label It petition

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports AATF spent $16 million to develop GM cowpea resistant to pod borer for farmers in West African nations; will begin releasing seeds to farmers in 2018

Commentary: ISAAA notes Uganda Biosciences Information Center educates public on GMOs and climate-smart agriculture during Harvest Money Expo, says farmers disappointed biotech solutions to their problems not allowed in Uganda, call on government to pass laws allowing GM crops

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on members of National Assembly's Committee on Agriculture's interruption of National Biosafety Authority chief executive Dr Will Tonui's speech at recent forum, calling for use of homegrown solutions to food security rather than "borrowing technology from elsewhere"

More Africa items

Asia

News: India-based CollegeDekho reports Indian research institute celebrates 7th anniversary; says institute is working on strategies to 'overcome anti-nutritional activity' and improve crops quality

News release: International Rice Research Institute director general Matthew Morell recently delivered Millenium Lecture at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation, where he emphasized potential for stress-tolerant rice varieties to help farmers address challenges posed by climate change

News: Iranian financial news outlet reports on Iranian Genetics Society head Mahmoud Tavallaee's assessment that biotech is indispensable for ensuring Iranian food security;Food and Drug Administration head Rasoul Dinarvand noted GMOs do not pose health risks

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Nature editorial examines regulatory limbo surrounding gene editing in Europe, highlights recent debate in Germany on the subject; notes some countries like Sweden are allowing scientists to proceed with research until a final decision is made, believes scientists should engage the public

News: French environment news outlet reports on group of over 100 MPs that protested Constitutional Council in opposition to CETA, voicing concern that the agreement will allow entry of unlabeled GE salmon

News: Politico reports on likelihood that BASF will be a prime beneficiary in all three proposed ag industry mergers, as merging companies seek to make divestments to assuage antitrust concerns, Christian Faitz of financial services company Kepler Cheuvreux notes BASF stands to aquire aggregated value of €11.5 billion

News: French news site reports Volunteer Reaper, who participated in destroying GM oilseed rape field, refuses automatic sentencing, asks for trial; says he is not a "delinquent" but a "militant"

News: French TV news site reports Volunteer Reaper who took part in destroying a GM oilseed rape field refused automatic sentencing and demands a trial

News: Swiss news agency reports Committee for Science recommends Swiss begin labeling their food as non-GMO to address marketing disadvantage

News: Swiss news site reports Committee on State Science says lack of non-GMO labels puts Swiss farmers at disadvantage to competitors

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Colombian news site reports Union of Scientists Committed to Society open letter supports Andean Parliament's decision to make region GMO-free, says the decision will help resolve "agronomic and health problems"

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: ISAAA reports Australia licenses GM potato field trial to assess disease resistance, agronomic characteristics

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9 04:19 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included reports that Kenya legislators had announced plans to allow locally developed GM cotton commercialization in the country. In Europe, the Competitiveness Council announced that the region's Biotech Directive did not allow patents on conventionally bred crops.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Xinhua News Agency reported that Kenya's Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives gave scientists permission to begin commercializing GM cotton, though the committee chairman urged regulatory agencies to ensure that cotton byproducts did not enter the human or animal food chains. The chairman added that legislators were supportive of "home-grown" solutions to food insecurity and said that they were willing to meet with other relevant committees in order to review the country's long-standing ban on GMOs. **See more**.
- In Europe, following a request from member states, the EU Competitiveness Council confirmed that plants developed through conventional breeding techniques were not eligible for patents. The statement clarified questions that had surrounded the region's Biotech Directive and countermands a European Patent Office decision from 2015 that had allowed the possibility of patents on plants developed through traditional breeding processes. **See more**.

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North America

Interview: Monsanto chief technology officer Fraley tells AgriNews that Bayer merger offers opportunity to invest in more R&D; adds Monsanto's breeding, seeds, traits and data science blends well with Bayer's knowledge of new chemistries

Commentary: Quora contributor says glyphosate use on crops not as harmful to human health as perceived, contrasting risk to cigarette smoking; claims organic and GMO-free labels do not carry same level of risk as labels on nicotine products

News: The Wall Street Journal reports while organic grain is flooding into the US to meet booming demand for products made without the use of synthetic pesticides or GM seeds; notes USDA plans to require import certificates to screen for fraud

News: Tucson TV station reports GMO Free Arizona rallies against Monsanto's proposed seven-acre greenhouse in Pima County; Monsanto says greenhouse is part of mission to provide farmers tools for better harvests using natural resources

Video: Environmental Working Group announces joint Plate of The Union campaign with Food Policy Action Education Fund's founder Tom Colicchio; initiative aims to support organic farming, keep ag pollutants out of water sources, ensure access to healthy food

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports National Assembly's Agriculture Committee wants country to improve capacity in developing GM foods locally; Chairman of the Agriculture Committee says it would play major role in mitigating perennial food shortages

News: Chinese news site reports Kenya lawmakers approve commercialization of GM cotton; ag committee chair cautions growers to ensure by-products don't get to human and animal food chain

Commentary: Agricultural economist writes for Huffington Post South Africa with optimistic view for the future of South Africa's ag sector, believes the country is well equiped to handle the armyworm attack, noting 85 percent of the maize crop is GM, pesticides are available, and Ag Department is providing technical assistance

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Nigerian Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) Director General Olusegun Ojo's call for increased ag biotech funding to promote full domestication of GM crops, emphasizing necessity of increasing development capacity in order to meet food needs of growing population

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on Grain Millers' Association of Zimbabwe's (GMAZ) request for government to impose 40 percent tariff on maize and mealie-meal imports, noting it is struggling to compete with cheap South African GM imports

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: MABIC executive director reviews biotech adoption in China, Bangaldesh and India; says growth is slowed by private sector tensions and NGO activism but calorie demands still increasing

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor examines high-tech agriculture, highlighting various methods, including precision agriculture, which seeks to boost production while minimizing land use, and reducing pollution

Commentary: Forbes India contributor examines future of food as Indian chefs seek to return to using seasonal, domestic foods to boost sustainability, claims Green Revolution technologies such as GMOs destroyed the soil and led to increased cancer rates

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agra Europe reports EU member states are calling on the European Commission to provide further analyses on the development and implications of EU patent law and biotech crops in a report later this year

News release: Green MEP for the South West, Molly Scott Cato, announces launch of two reports on ideas for post-Brexit agriculture, one by Soil Association and the other by Simon Fairlie of Land Workers' Alliance, Farirlie's report calls for 'polluter pays' labeling on food products involving use of pesticides, GMOs

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on BSP leader Kornelia Ninova's concern that CETA would allow entry of GMOs, and her promise that BSP will block ratification in National Assembly if she wins the election; however, EU Commission spokesman on trade and ag noted strict GMO regulations will remain in place

News: Serbian news agency reports Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs has not detected presence of GMOs in recent tests of imported food samples, following concerns about GM contamination in certain imported foods

News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on UC Davis geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam's development of gene-edited hornless dairy cattle to protect farmers, highlights opposition from European NGO Earth Open Source, funded by the Maharishi cult, which claims CRISPR is not more precise than other GE tools

News: The Times (U.K.) reports on potential for EU to block British produce imports following Brexit, should the UK follow through with plans to cultivate GM crops, according to leaked EU Parliament report

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: GRAIN official in La Jornada details legal efforts by Yucatan's indigenous community to block GM soy

News: Croatian news outlet reports on agricultural and genetics expert Dr. Marijan Jost's warning that Zika is not responsible for birth defects in Latin America, blaming glyphosate and GMOs instead, Croatian MEP Davor Skrlec has called on citizens to sign European Citizens' Initiative to ban glyphosate

More Latin America items

Oceania

Audio: EPA chief scientist Dr. Jacqueline Rowarth tells a New Zealand new site that GE grasses can result in enriched milk and meat products, creating fewer greenhouse gases and less nitrate; calls crop a win for agriculture

News: Food Navigator reports authors of a study examining women's attitudes toward GM foods say scientists need to go beyond presenting just facts

Commentary: Greenpeace investigative journalist writes for New Zealand farming news outlet, promotes ecological agriculture free from pesticides and GMOs, notes it does not mean a return to old fashioned practices, but rather using practical methods that put the environment first

News release: New Zealand anti-GMO NGO Pure Hawke's Bay announces use of "Taniwha Dragon" summit hosted by Ngaiti Kahugnunu to promote economic benefits of maintaining Hawke's Bay's GMO-free status, exporter John Bostock noted GMOs are associated with low-end commodities such as corn and soy

More Oceania items

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 20, 2017
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 4:02:02 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A series of court hearings on a challenge to the European Union's restrictions on neonics has brought renewed interest to the process that led to a ban on many uses of the pesticides. In this week's newsletter, a member of the U.K.'s House of Lords and a Belgian blogger argue that the restrictions should be lifted as a recent report showed they have not benefited and have been a burden to farmers. In addition, a syndicated U.S. radio program interviewed Henry Miller on the issue, including how Zaruk revealed conflicts of interest that led to the creation of an unaftainable standard for proving pesticides are not harmful to bee colonies.

Among other notable content this week, Dan Rather interviewed a Nobel laureate about the safety of GMOs, a Genetic Literacy Project series continued with Steve Savage examining myths about the benefits of organic farming and a former USDA undersecretary criticized claims about "clean meat."

Please contact us if you have any questions. The full text of the articles below can be viewed by logging in to the Bonus Eventus Community site. First-time users will need to fill out the Request Membership form on the front page. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Green Science Policy Institute

The Green Science Policy Institute (GSPI), an NGO formerly known as the WELL Network, is an anti-synthetic chemical advocacy group that claims the public health is at risk from unacceptable-at-any-dose chemical residues

Stories Worth Sharing

Matt Ridley: With bee population rising, EU neonic ban based on "deeply flawed process" should be lifted

Nobel laureate tells Dan Rather GMOs are safe, opposition is "irrational"

David Zaruk: Following study showing neonic ban did not help bees, European Commissioner should retract bee risk guidance document

Steve Savage: Organic farming is not better than conventional, switch would be "fundamentally problematic"

ISAAA scientist: With court hurdle cleared, developer should consider commercial release of Bt eggplant

Henry Miller: "Intolerable and unacceptable" actions led to creation of European bee risk guidance document

Ex-USDA undersecretary: Good Food Institute's "clean meat" wrongly implies conventional meat is dirty, loaded with antibiotics

Center for Accountability in Science: U.S. wasted $1.2M last year by funding IARC's "Chicken Little" approach to declaring everything carcinogenic

that are found in food and packaging as well as leaching from other everyday consumer products.

The group's hazard warnings are aligned with campaigns insisting only a precautionary principle approach that seeks to ban the use of modern chemicals and pesticides.

LEARN MORE about Berkeley, California-based GSPI.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Daily Caller: Harvard toxicologist says current uses - and even some banned uses - of chlorpyrifos are safe

Minnesota organic farmer raises "serious concerns" about USDA's proposed organic check-off program

Ex-U.K. chief scientist Sir John Beddington calls European anti-GMO movement "naive," blocking solution to world malnutrition

University of Adelaide research: Science alone not enough to convince women that GM foods are safe

U.K. farmer questions why Soil Association leader uses IARC ruling to campaign against glyphosate, apparently has no issue with diesel

Julie Kelly: House Republican works to eliminate "ineffective" EPA regulations from Obama administration

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What's Trending?

Syngenta, Bayer get days in European court in effort to overturn neonic restrictions

Farmers in 10 U.S. states sue Monsanto, claiming company is liable for damage from illegal dicamba spraying

Food and Agriculture Organization holds emergency meeting in response to southern Africa armyworm outbreak

NGOs accuse European Commission of signing off on emergency exemptions to neonic ban too readily

Maryland Senate hears testimony on bill to ban some uses of antibiotics in animal agriculture

Natural Resources Defense Council lawsuit seeks to force through endangered species listing for rusty patched bumblebee

European Commission proposes changes to comitology process, potentially affecting regulation of glyphosate and GM crops

Calendar highlights

February 25-March 5	February 27-March 1	February 28
Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris	Farm Bureau advocacy conference in Washington, D.C.	European Commission committee meeting on endocrine disruptor criteria

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Feb. 17-19, 2017
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017 10:44:45 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the release of a public-private partnership project in Nigeria, a pod borer-resistant GM cowpea. Pro-biotech groups and the Green Party commented on the European Commission's announcement that it will revise its decision-making process for items such as GMO and pesticide authorizations.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The Nigerian news site Vanguard reported the development of Maruca Resistant Cowpeas by a public-private partnership, the Pod Borer Resistant Cowpea Project. The GM cowpea is resistant to pod borer attacks and is expected to reduce losses to the pest and reduce the need for insecticide use. **See more**.
- Industry and anti-GMO politicians commented on the European Commission's proposed changes to its comitology process. Feed Navigator reported 17 trade groups, including EuropaBio and FEFAC, called on the commission to prioritize science-based decision-making as it revises the process, highlighting impacts on GMOs and pesticides. Meanwhile, EU Green Party members said in a news release that the changes will do little for food safety but will "mask the political disputes linked to GMOs." **See more**.

Due to the Presidents Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Please visit the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

News: AgBioForum studies costs of choosing non-GMOs over GMOs, finds average family food cost increase nearly $3,000 over a year

Study: Nature publishes study on the ability of Bt cotton to reduce pesticide spraying

Commentary: March Against Monsanto blogger reports on growing opposition to Monsanto's planned corn greenhouse facility in Pima County, Arizona, announces upcoming rally, public forum and press conference in opposition to its construction, forum speakers include Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America

Commentary: Julianna LeMieux of American Council on Science and Health writes for Buffalo News, criticizing PTA's resolution aimed at removing GM foods from school cafeterias, notes the resolution is not based on science, and wastes time and energy that could be devoted to more important issues facing the public school system

News: Earth.com reports on developments in gene editing, including animal improvements such as hornless cows, highlights UC Davis geneticist AlisonÂ Van Eenennaam's concern that gene edited animals might be regulated as animal drugs, she notesÂ resulting DNA sequences may be identical to existing, naturally-occurring DNA sequences

Commentary: Center for Food Integrity CEO says conversation about food isn't just about better technology, but finding better ways to support informed public evaluation of those technologies

News: Reuters reports on federal jury's conviction of Chinese scientist Weiqiang Zhang of conspiring to steal GM rice seed samples from a US research facility, he was convicted on three counts including conspiracy to steal trade secrets and interstate transportation of stolen property

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news outlet reports on November 2016 celebration by nonprofit biotechnology stakeholders association Africabio, marking 20 years of GM crops, speakers discussed the legacy of biotech in South Africa

News: South African news site reports Zimbabwean grain millers want tariffs on maize imports, say they struggle to compete with less expensive GM maize imported from South Africa, and it interferes with food security by foiling attempts to boost local production

Commentary: Food Sovereignty Ghana says Parliament members distort opposition to Plant Breeders Bill, says many objections to the proposed law have nothing to do with GMOs, calls on Parliament to publish report on public consultation regarding the bill

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor continues series on potential for GMOs to solve the food crisis, points to recent study which found a GM ban would increase greenhouse gas emissions, as well as scientific consensus on GMO safety

News release: Third World Network says pesticides used with Bt cotton still a health hazard to farm workers, cites Nature article analyzing two recent studies

Commentary: Indian news outlet reports on Bt cotton situation in Burkina Faso, framing it as an example to follow, highlighting recent talk in Hyderabad by Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN) activists, in which they described declining yields, poor quality and high prices of Bt cotton, leading farmers to abandon it

Commentary: Indian financial news outlet editorial argues that while NITI Aayog's support of GM technology indicates the government may use the Seed Bill to voice commitment to better technology, the bill itself is not enough to indicate change, noting GM mustard and Bt eggplant have not made it to market yet

More Asia items

Europe

Study: Italian researcher says EU's GMO legislation makes little sense, is not science-based, notes contradiction that GM cultivation largely is banned while GMOs are imported; says legislation varies between "nonsense and protectionism"

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson criticizes recent lecture by GMO scientist head of Sainsbury Laboratory at John Innes Centre, Jonathan Jones, accusing him of misleading university students about GMOs, claims GMOs and products of gene editing can have off-target effects that negatively impact health, points to dangers of glyphosate

News: Swiss NGO says if three major agribusiness mergers are completed, the resulting companies' dominance over food system would be immense, says competition commission, EU Commission should reject mergers

Commentary: EU Green Party blog lists reasons party opposes CETA, including lack of transparency, private courts, and continues to pressure EU to change biotech, GMO rules

News release: EU Green Party says Commission's proposed changes to comitology will do little for public health on GMO, pesticide authorizations; MP Bart Staes says it will "mask the political disputes linked to GMOs"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports Colombian agricultural groups support biotech that they say can contribute to food security and agricultural competitiveness in the region

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on grain industry's frustrations over increased imports of transgenic maize from Argentina, which is more expensive but thought to be higher quality, Association of Producers of Oilseeds and Wheat (Anapo) and Maize and Sorghum Producers have called on government to allow GM crop cultivation

News: Argentine news site reports activists to host ECOS Day rally to oppose Argentine seed law; event includes filming for seed documentary, Carlos Vicente to appear at news conference

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports beekeeper claims honeybees lost due to pesticide drift from cotton farms, notes cotton industry claims development of GE cotton has reduced pesticide use, while CropLife Australia CEO touts health of country's bee colonies, noting lack of impact on bee health from EU neonics ban

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 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 continued commentary on Oregon legislation that would allow local governments to ban or regulate biotech crops. Activist groups continued commentary on the European Union and Canada's Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the EU Parliament after it approved the treaty.

Consolidated highlights include:

- A Capital Press editorial opposed an Oregon legislative bill that would allow counties to regulate GMOs, suggesting that should be governed at the state level. Meanwhile, an Oregon public radio station announced an upcoming program on the topic featuring activist Elise Higby and state Rep. Pam Marsh. **See more**.
- Global Justice Now and other anti-GMO groups criticized the EU Parliament's approval of CETA, saying it will allow GM products and hormone-treated meat into the EU. Le Monde reported Trudeau applauded the Parliament's decision, saying it would help the middle class on both sides of the Atlantic. However, the president of an agricultural union said European regulatory constraints will hamper exports of Canadian agricultural products, especially beef and GMOs. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Steve Savage writes for Genetic Literacy Project, explaining why organic ag is not necessarily better for the environment, highlights yield gap, notes organic operations cannot use no-till, and points out that innovative technologies to solve environmental problems are prohibited in organic systems

Commentary: Plant scientist criticizes marketing ploys that urge consumers to choose 'clean' food without GMOs; says these marketing claims undermine ongoing efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition deaths

Commentary: Contributor to the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs describes ethical discussions surrounding new gene editing techniques as the 'new GMO wars'

News: Missouri news outlet reports Missouri farmers Steven and Deloris Landers have joined farmers in nine other states in class action lawsuit against Monsanto, alleging the company knowingly ï»¿marketed its Xtend cotton and soybean seeds without first gaining approval for its dicamba formulation

Study: Scientific Reports study finds environmental impact difference between Bt rice and the non-Bt parent was much smaller than variations among conventional rice cultivars; suggest this variability among conventional cultivars could be used as a criterion for environmental safety assessment

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news site reports South Africa facing possible national disaster over fall armyworm invasion, which could devastate sub-Saharan crop production; South Africa could also potentially be at risk from the red migratory locust

Commentary: University of Pretoria entomologist writes for The Conversation about how difficult it is to control fall armyworm in southern Africa, notes tendency to develop a resistance to pesticides as one of several reasons the pest is a serious threat

Commentary: Wanjiru Kamau of Kenya Organic Agriculture Network and Ousmane Tiendrebeogo of National Syndicate of Agropastoral Farmers in Burkina Faso write for Kenyan news outlet, warning readers about risks of Bt cotton adoption, noting problems with the technology in Burkina Faso, arguing Kenya must address production challenges first

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor begins first of two-part series on how biotech can solve the food crisis, notes the Philippines have already hit the ceiling for crop production according to Dr. Randy Hautea of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), and that the population is growing

News: Institute for Basic Science says researchers have edited fat content of soybean oil using CRISPR-Cpf1 gene editing technology; increased oleic acid in soybean seeds thus resulting in a healthier oil

News: The Times of India reports former director of a university plant biology center releases book to create awareness about the 'advantages of GM crops among people and farmers'

News: Local news source reports the Philippines is considering a law focused on food production, instead of only amending its anti-GMO ordinance; notes it will require non-GMO certification for 'watchlist' ingredients used in food production

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French plant researcher says 'post-modernism' undermines empirical fields like biology, adds that US National Academics of Sciences report calling for public engagement on biotechnology ignores how similar efforts have failed in Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO previews its March 23 General Assembly; says, among many other issues, group should discuss industry efforts to avoid GMO regulations on new plant breeding techniques

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM examines debate on regulation of products of new breeding techniques, notes ag industry does not want them to be regulated as GMOs

News: Le Monde reports Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau addresses Parliament, applauds approval of CETA, welcomes economic benefits; expert laments European regulations still will hamper Canadian agricultural exports, including GMOs

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news site columnist dismisses activists who link swarm of locusts to use of GM crops, pesticides; notes there are reports of locust swarms in Bolivia before there were biotech crops

News: Brazilian news site reports agricultural ministry fast-tracks pesticide, GMO registration, says

experts claim they are linked to cancer, other health issues

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: The Australian reports on Tim O'Hare of Naturally Nutritious' development of nutrient enriched produce via conventional breeding, while O'Hare is interested in the science of genetic engineering, he would rather see his products on shelves than stuck in the lab, noting the consumer must come first

Commentary: University of Adelaide academics claim facts alone may not persuade consumers; note research found women without science backgrounds think GM food presents 'unknown risks'

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Feb. 15, 2017
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:01:13 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 additional analysis of the European Commission's proposed comitology processes, as well as the European Parliament's decision to approve a significant trade agreement with Canada. U.S. media outlets previewed this week's launch of the gene-edited Arctic brand apple in Midwestern grocery stores.

Consolidated highlights include:

- European news outlets reported that the European Parliament approved a trade agreement with Canada, on a 408-254 vote. Activist groups Corporate Europe Observatory and Greenpeace issued statements criticizing the approval, warning that the deal threatens European food safety and environmental standards. Xinhua, in reporting on the decision, countered those claims and noted that Canadian imports to the EU would have to comply with local regulations. The decision will now be referred to national and regional parliaments for ratification. **See more**.
- European news outlets continued to report on the European Commission's proposal to revise the comitology process on controversial issues. Politico's analysis noted that the various country ministers would play a more active and public role in such decisions. Reports in Agence France-Presse, Les Echos and other news sites noted that recent impasses on GM crop trait approvals and on glyphosate had prompted the proposed changes. **See more**.
- Agricultural news outlets in the U.S. reported on the limited release of Okanagan Specialty Fruits' Arctic brand apples, which will appear in some Midwestern stores this week. The Packer highlighted a recent report from Rabobank, which noted that produce companies were carefully watching the launch to assess consumer reactions. The article added that a successful trial could spur significant innovation. Meanwhile, Organic Consumers Association launched a consumer action campaign, calling on supporters in the Midwest to sign a petition opposing the sale of the apples. The petition will be delivered to regional grocery store chains. **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: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins notes organic industry has grown to $50 billion per year sector, announces launch of Consumer and Political Revolution 2017-2020, claims most consumers believe pesticides, synthetic hormones, antibiotic residues and GMOs are dangerous

Commentary: Former USFRA chairwoman Nancy Kavazanjian expresses disappointment that Girl Scouts introduced non-GMO labeled cookie, says organization that prides itself on promoting STEM education has become a pawn of activists

News: The Packer reports Rabobank calls limited marketing of Arctic apple a pivotal case for biotech companies; says, if successful, it could trigger a wave of innovation in the fruit sector

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association urges supporters in Midwestern states to take action to oppose test marketing of Arctic apples in local grocery stores

Commentary: Health news site says GM apples, potatoes will be in some Midwest produce departments this month, Organic Consumers Association rep says GMOs pose health risks

Campaign: FireFly Film & Video, Inc launches Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign to raise money for "Operation Phoenix," an anti-GMO action feature film, with goal of informing audiences about dangers of GMOs and their associated pesticides, seeks $500,000 for development

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director General Rufus Ebegba's recent statement that NBMA's purpose is to ensure that GMOs are safe for humans and the environment prior to market release, noting Nigeria has taken the necessary precautionary measures

More Africa items

Asia

News: Hindustan Times reports experts concerned over easy availability of inexpensive genome editing kits; government biotech expert says there has to be some form of protection against irresponsible bio-hackers

News release: Third World Network shares research finding gaps in EFSA's assessment of Monsanto's soybean Intacta, says with further soybean varieties expressing Bt toxins in the pipeline, these issues require urgent attention

More Asia items

Europe

News: European news outlets report on EU Parliament's passage of CETA trade deal; Deutsche Welle quoted trade commissioner, who said the agreement would not change any EU standards on food safety

Commentary: French news site correspondents write that arguments against CETA are mostly myths, says agreement does not overrule EU laws, will not import large amounts of hormone-treated meat, will not abuse tribunal process

News release: Greenpeace criticizes EU Parliament's approval of CETA, believes Parliament's support may clash with opinions of EU national and regional parliaments; adds that CETA may not pass scrutiny of European Court of Justice, as Belgium will seek ruling on legality of the Investment Court System

Commentary: Global Justice Now criticizes EU Parliament vote approving CETA despite protesting, "widespread public opposition," claims it would give corporations greater roles in formulating laws, privatizes and deregulates wide range of services

Commentary: Scott Sinclair of Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Stuart Trew write for The Guardian, voicing opposition to CETA, noting it will weaken the precautionary principle and put pressure on EU regulations of GMOs and endocrine disrupting chemicals

News release: Corporate Europe Observatory criticizes EU Parliament for approving CETA in spite of widespread public opposition, labeling it a "sad day for democracy," voices concern that the agreement will provide large corporations with unprecedented power

News: EurActiv reports EU Commission President Juncker's proposed reforms of comitology process already face criticism; Juncker seeks a solution to decisions on sensitive issues like GMOs and glyphosate being left to the Commission, but Green MEPs believe more transparency is needed overall

News: Agence France-Presse reports European Commission proposes rule changes assigning more responsibility, transparency in EU member state decision decision-making process; notes decision on

glyphosate reauthorization, biotech crop decisions impacted Commission's desire to change the process

News: Politico summarizes latest details in proposal to revise EU comitology regulations, says Commission's plan is to involve country ministers and make decisions public

News release: Testbiotech says new publication reports unintended effects found in GE golden rice, says the transgenic plants could spread their gene constructs into populations of weedy rice as well as other cultivated varieties

More Europe items

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on public hearings hosted by Tasmanian Legislative Council's dairy inquiry, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association dairy council chair Andrew Lester noted the state's GM moratorium, while helpful to the brand, means missing out on technological advancements

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9 04:49 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

Today's global biotechnology developments included the announcement of the European Commission's proposed changes to the comitology process. Media outlets in Nigeria continued to report on the controversy over the country's biosafety law, including recent statements from religious groups.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The European Commission released its proposed changes to the comitology process today. A Reuters article reported that the move was designed to counter increasing "euroscepticism" in the region. In a question-and-answer document about the proposed changes, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker highlighted the inappropriateness of forcing the commission into making a decision when the membership cannot decide on sensitive topics. The proposed changes include ignoring abstentions in the voting process and incorporating other ministers and legislative bodies in the event of an impasse. The proposal was met with statements from EuropaBIO and environmental activists. **See more**.
- Controversy over Nigeria's biosafety law continued today. Following yesterday's statement from the National Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), which called on the government to use "caution" in approving GM crops, an Abuja-based bishop elaborated on the statement and noted that the government has an obligation to prioritize citizen health above all other considerations and thus must consider other methods to allay hunger. These claims were countered by a spokesperson for the Open Forum for Agriculture Biotechnology (OFAB), who noted that recent pest and disease problems in the country highlight the need for innovative agricultural technologies. **See more**.
- Beekeepers in Quintana Roo, Mexico, told local media outlet SIPSE today that they were launching a new trade association to help advocate for honey producers in Leona Vicario. Spokesman Martin Dzib Tun told the newspaper that beekeepers were threatened by the planting of transgenic crops because the presence of GM pollen made it impossible for them to market their honey as 100 percent pure in European markets. In similar news, during a visit to Marist University, the Yucatan governor said that the government remained committed to its GE-free commitment. Zapata Bella highlighted the state's commitment to environmental protections. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science shares comments from scientists to show their passion for what they do, including the researcher who developed a transgenic papaya resistant to the ringspot virus

Commentary: In Honolulu Star-Advertiser, media consultant writes that counties should not have authority to regulate pesticide use, noting they lack necessary expertise, motivations are based on politics rather than science, and different regulations across the state would create "chaos" for Hawaii agriculture

Commentary: Kauai blogger claims Rep. Richard Creagan, chair of the House Agriculture Committee, is undermining farming on Hawaiian islands in push to over-regulate GMOs, pesticides

Commentary: Common Dreams contributor promotes campaign from 325 food and farm groups urging Attorney General Sessions to reject agricultural mega-mergers, claiming they put corporate interests above public health, small farmers, and the environment

Commentary: Center for Food Safety calls for Department of Justice to reject mega-mergers among chemical and seed companies, says it would put world consumers at even higher risk of food insecurity

News: Bloomberg BNA says Minnesota woman files suit alleging Dannon used deceptive "all natural" labels on yogurt products containing GM ingredients

News release: Cooperative bank issues report claiming increased consumer demand for organic, non-GMO foods produced sharp rise in 2016 organic grain imports, notes domestic production remains below demand, prompting incentives to transition to organic

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent sensitization workshop entitled "Agricultural Biotechnology Regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms in Nigeria: Faith Based Perspectives," organized by National Biotechnology Technology Agency, NBMA, OFAB, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria and Action Family Foundation

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on controversy surrounding GM crop adoption, Auxillary Bishop of Abuja Archdiocese, Bishop Anselem Umorem, believes Nigeria does not need GMOs to produce more food, but should improve infrastructure to ensure that food gets distributed to those in need

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on environmentalist Nnimmo Bassey's call on federal government to revoke permits issued to Monsanto for GM cotton and corn varieties, claiming the permits were issued illegally, and that GMOs pose risks for human health and the environment

News release: Greenpeace Africa says climate change, failing food system open door to armyworm pest; calls for revamping agriculture; adds eco-farming doesn't require chemical inputs or GE crops

News: Agence France-Presse reports UN is holding emergency talks with international experts in Harare on how to tackle outbreak of fall armyworms advancing across several African countries

Video: Cornell Alliance for Science shares video of Ghana farmer who embraces new crop technology, urges other farmers to do so; highlights Ghana current tests on GM crops resistant to pests and drought

More Africa items

Asia

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Asia during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: Norwegian Biotechnology Council announces publication of statement recommending moratorium on use of gene drives in nature, but supporting further research and development of international rules, highlights benefits of technology but say little is known about ecological risks

News: Reuters reports EU Commission will change decision-making process, remove abstention option to tackle growing criticism of Brussels government for enacting unpopular decisions, including GMO, glyphosate approval, caused by a failure of states to take stand on controversial issues

Commentary: EuropaBIO issues statement warning that comitology reforms could make it even more

difficult to approve innovative agricultural and pharmaceutical products; calls for European Commission to 'guard' its independence from political considerations and focus on science

Campaign: Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, IFOAM and Pesticide Action Network offer recommendations to revise EU comitology process; says current regulations undermine public health and democratic process

Interview: European Seed features chief scientific officer for crop developer Cibus, who says the company is using non-transgenic techniques to enhance tolerance to environmental stressors

News: EurActiv reports U.K. Greens co-leader issues report listing ways Brexit threatens environmental protection laws; report warns legislation surrounding GMOs and pesticides could be eroded to enhance trade opportunities with the US

Commentary: Campaign Stop TTIP writes for Huffington Post Italy, calling on MEPs to reject CETA agreement in tomorrow's vote; claim it will open the door to "violent and irreversible deregulation" of GMOs, pesticides, and hormone treated meat

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Yucatan Peninsula beekeepers' concerns about GM contamination, resulting in returned shipments of honey exports, Leona Vicario beekeepers plan to form an association with goal of strengthening and protecting their production

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Yucatan Governor Rolando Zapata Bello's recent statement on the state's GM-free decree, highlighting importance of protecting the environment, biodiversity, and local honey operations, and noting importance of public policies that support the decree

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Carlos Henrique Gaguim's introduction of a bill to amend the Biosafety Law to require mandatory labeling of GM foods with a warning about potential health risks, Gaguim stressed importance of adhering to the Precautionary Principle

News: Italian news outlet reports on Argentinian opposition to agribusiness, amid President Mauricio Macri's policies in support of GMOs and the ag sector, highlights peasant group's opposition to seed law on royalties, and protests against Monsanto's facility in Cordoba

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Former U.K. chief scientist tells ABC Rural that the anti-science movement is threatening policy on climate change, GM crops; calls European movement against GM plants naive

More Oceania items

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Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 9 02:09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new campaigns in the U.S. and Africa against agriculture industry mergers. In Australia, a local broadcaster previewed a field trial of disease-resistant bananas scheduled for the spring.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Friends of the Earth and other NGOs issued an open letter calling on newly confirmed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to block the pending mergers and acquisitions in the agricultural industry. The letter, signed by over 300 food and farming groups, claims that industry consolidation would reduce competition, increasing costs for farmers and negatively impacting farmer health. **See more**.
- African activists also launched criticisms of proposed agricultural industry mergers, with the African Centre for Biodiversity issuing a new report claiming that Bayer's purchase of Monsanto would result in companies that are "too big to fail" and would further erode democratic control of food systems. The group also warned that the mergers would reduce investment in research, minimizing farmer choice and increasing costs. **See more**.
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the Queensland University of Technology received approval for a five-year trial of bananas genetically modified to be resistant to Panama Tropical Race 4. The report noted that the disease is commonplace in the Northern Territory. **See more**.

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North America

News release: Friends of the Earth announces letter from over 300 food and farm groups urging Attorney General Jeff Sessions to oppose ag industry mergers; claims consolidation will raise costs and threaten the environment, farmworker health and food security

News: Progressive Farmer reports on letter from almost 325 consumer, food, farm and anti-pesticide groups to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, calling on him to block mergers between ag companies; claim the mergers will increase prices and threaten human and environmental health

Letter to the editor: Writing in Science, French researcher pushes back on U.S. National Academies of Sciences recommendations for public consultation on biotech regulations; says engaging the public too early risks allowing emotional discourse to preempt scientific information

News: AgriNews reports seed company rep says gene editing goes beyond dealing with disease and pathogens, calls enhancing nutrition in vegetables very exciting, a path to make nutrients available

News: Ag news site reports growing group of scientists says gene editing holds promise for fighting crop diseases, improving flavor, yield of vegetables: industry knows global acceptance of the technology crucial for long-term success

Commentary: Global Justice Ecology Project blames GMOs for monarch butterfly's dramatic population

decline; notes herbicide-resistant crops prompt heavier glyphosate use that kills milkweed that serves as caterpillar's only food

Commentary: Washington law firm blogs on Oregon state legislature introducing legislation to repeal parts of 2013 law that preempts county laws from regulating farm practices, including restrictions on GMO cultivation

News release: U.S. Grains Council attributes its engagement for export victories, biotech trait approvals in South Africa, noting country is now buying US sorghum, and open to US corn following December decision to eliminate biotech restrictions

More North America items

Africa

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity announces publication of briefing paper with support of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, entitled "The BAYER-MONSANTO merger: Implications for South Africa's agricultural future and its smallholder farmers," which claims industry consolidation will reduce choices and raise prices for farmers

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Inter-Religious Council's (NIREC) call on Federal Government to exercise caution in allowing GMOs into the country, a report by its expert committee argued that the country does not have necessary facilities and expertise to regulate and control GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Writing for Southeast Asia ag-biotech research NGO, ISAAA scientist documents saga of Bt eggplant field trials, recommends developer commercial Bt eggplant now that trials have proven efficacy of the technology

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Green Asia Agri-Ventures (GAAG) agriculturalist Johann Go's research on banana tissue culture to develop plants with higher yields, disease tolerance; Go emphasized that the technology is different from GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Event: European Commission to present proposal on February 14 to revise Comitology Rgulation, following President Juncker's State of the Union speech, in which he noted it is not right that member states cannot decide among themselves controversial issues such as approving GMOs and glyphosate

News: UK's Daily Mail reports Cambridge University's Study of Existential Risk has issued opinions on how world will end; considers genetic engineering mishaps, climate change-related food shortages among top 10 risks

News: Italian green news outlet reports on Movimento 5 Stelle's opposition to CETA agreement, highlighting letter to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Troudeau from Green MPs voicing their concern about health and environmental risks posed by GMOs, pesticides and animal hormones

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on association Mi Arbol y Yo's support of GM cultivation bans in states of States of Coahuila and Durango, following in Yucatan's example, association advisor Francisco Lastra pointed to health risks of pesticide use on GM crops

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Queensland University of Technology's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities' (QUT) planned field trials of Panama TR4-resistant GM bananas in Northern Territory, lead researcher James Dale noted spread of the disease could lead to deregulation of their banana

Commentary: Australian news site editorial says government should ensure upcoming GM banana trial benefits, community and farmers, cites GM Free Australia Alliance claims genetic manipulation is risky to human health and the environment

News: GMO-ID Australia director tells Australian food news site many Australians don't want to eat GMOs despite claims supporting their benefits, adds most fears about GMOs haven't been conclusively refuted by the scientific community

More Oceania items

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 13, 2017
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:01:27 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features analysis pieces examining the two sides of the scientific debate surrounding neonicotinoids and their impact on bees. Jon Entine writes for Genetic Literacy Project on the many field studies that have shown neonics pose little risk to bees while a piece in Forbes by Henry Miller points out how activist groups claiming neonics are harmful frequently rely on research compromised by conflicts of interest.

Other pieces take a closer look at the Arctic apple as it arrives on store shelves, argue on behalf of biotechnology in Kenya and make the case that Canada does not need to ban the pesticide imidacloprid.

You can also find more information on a series of recent developments in Europe: the launch of an NGO-backed citizens initiative seeking a ban of glyphosate, the latest bid by the U.K.'s National Farmers Union to allow oilseed rape farmers to use neonic-treated seeds and a new draft of the European Commission's proposal to regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The commission plans to discuss the new criteria at a Feb. 28 meeting.

Please contact us if you have any questions. The full text of the articles below can be viewed by logging in to the Bonus Eventus Community site. First-time users will need to fill out the Request Membership form on the front page. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: The Organic Center

The U.S. Organic Trade Association's recent top lobbying agenda item has been implementation of a farmer- (producer) funded and taxpayer-supported USDA Organic Check-Off program to underwrite the industry's marketing expenses.

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: 18 field studies show neonics pose little risk to bees

Nina Fedorott: Biotech regulations should be based on facts, and "scientific evidence of safety is in"

Henry Miller: Science promoted by anti-pesticide activists riddled with conflicts of interest

Kenyan lecturer argues country should move past being "on the brink" of approving GMOs and actually do it

Science 2.0: Kevin Folta explains gene silencing involved in creation of Arctic apples

Genetic Literacy Project begins 10-part series on how regulation of genetic engineering squelches agricultural innovation

Farm Babe debunks myths that farmers are forced to grow cancer-causing GMOs drenched in toxic herbicides

University of Guelph scientist: Canada's proposed ban of imidacloprid is "unnecessary"

The USDA announced in January that this Organic Check-Off would be launched following a 60-day comment period ending March 20. The USDA-endorsed Check Off would direct funds to organic marketing research and promotion programs, which historically have focused on disparaging conventional production methods.

As the primary research arm of the Organic Trade Association, The Organic Center is likely to benefit from the estimated $30 million to $40 million in annual Check-Off dollars. While funded, co-located and led by OTA, The Organic Center has been operating as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization since its founding in 2002.

To learn more about The Organic Center, how organic marketing industry trade association members direct resources to and use this tax-exempt "charitable" organization, and how a taxpayer-subsidized, U.S. government-endorsed program's funding might be used for industry marketing expenses, CLICK HERE.

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Kavin Senapathy: Watch out for false claims about non-browning, genetically modified Arctic apples

European Landowners Association official: EU indecision on agriculture regulations could cause "serious problems" for farmers

Indian physician: As human population grows, Nobel laureate points to genetically modified foods as solution to food scarcity

Stephan Neidenbach: With activists cherry-picking any flaw, communicators must be more specific about safety of GMOs

In Philadelphia Inquirer, pediatrician suggests " parents should feel safe feeding their children" GM foods

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What's Trending?

Nearly 40 NGOs launch citizens initiative seeking glyphosate ban in Europe

Trump administration delays addition of bumblebee to endangered species list, raising questions whether decision will be nixed

European Commission releases fourth draft of proposed EDC criteria, removing exemption for pesticides

Sanderson Farms rejects shareholder proposal to phase out medically important antibiotic use for growth promotion, disease prevention

Canadian NGOs ramp up petition campaigns supporting imidacloprid ban as Feb. 21 comment deadline nears

Calendar highlights

February 14	February 16	February 16
Maryland Senate hearing on Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017	Agriculture Day in Canada	Independent Women's Forum "Food and Fear" forum
February 16	**February 18-20**	**February 18-19**
Belgian NGO Inter-Environment Wallonie hosts workshop on environmental health and endocrine	Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont annual conference featuring Vandana	Environmental Health in Wisconsin conference featuring Tyrone Hayes presentation

disruptors	Shiva keynote speech	

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included included a lawyer for a collective of Mexican NGOs that is suing to ban GM maize cultivation telling Mexican media that regulatory agency officials lied to the court regarding illegal GM cultivation in the area. Media reported that a pest native to the United States is threatening crops in southern Africa.

Consolidated highlights included:

- Mexican news sites reported NGO attorney Rene Sánchez Galindo accused the regulatory agency SAGARPA of lying to the court regarding the illegal planting of GM maize in order to protect large agribusinesses. **See more**.
- Reuters and other media sources reported fall armyworms are devastating crops in southern Africa. A Lancaster University professor's article for The Conversation noted pesticides and Bt crops keep the armyworm under control in the U.S., but some African countries do not allow biotech crops and ban some pesticides. **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

Video: Dan Rather interviews Nobel laureate Paul Nurse, who says GMOs are as safe as conventionally bred crops, what matters is end product not the process

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA calls out Food Babe over "Food and Fear" event tweet, invites Food Babe Army members to attend Feb. 16 event in St. Louis sponsored by Monsanto

News: Oregon news site reports some farmers want Oregon lawmakers to allow local governments to regulate and potentially ban GM crops, but Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, pesticide manufacturers renew objections

News: Philadelphia Inquirer reports on DuPont CEO Edward Breen's statement to employees in recent newsletter, reproducing the text, in which Breen describes plans to divest a portion of DuPont's crop protection business to a single buyer to create a strong crop protection industry competitor

Commentary: UPROXX contributor voices concern about President Trump's pick for Health and Human Services, Tom Price, especially regarding uncertainty surrounding future of food regulation, highlighting decreasing regulation of new GM products

Commentary: News Target contributor criticizes Monsanto's promotion of GMOs in the UK, claims there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, and that GMOs and pesticides negatively impact human health and the environment

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports national research lab director notes GM banana that resists devastating disease, is enhanced with vitamin A will become available once Uganda passes biosafety law

Letters to the editor: Rwandan news site publishes letters supporting country's biosafety framework, GM crops

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) director Rufus Ebegba's statement that the agency's responsibility is to safeguard health of Nigerians in use of modern biotech and GMOs, noting Nigeria cannot shy away from deployment of safe science and technology

News: Reuters reports South African farmers battling crop-eating fall armyworms on the heels of the worst drought in 25 years; farmers dread crop damage, costs of pesticide

Commentary: Natural News contributor amplifies letter to the editor of a Rwandan news outlet claiming "toxic" foods such as GMOs grown with pesticides are responsible for rising cancer rates, criticizes US' push of biotech on African agriculture

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Sri Lankan news site editorial says Trump will approve Bayer's Monsanto purchase to create "agri-business beast," claims move would be bad business and against the law

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Visayan legislators' call for investigation on impact of importation, use and sale of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) on sugar industry's sustainability, Councilor Caesar Distrito noted HFCS is made from GMOs which are banned in Negros Occidental

Commentary: ASA's Biotech Working Group discusses innovations in plant breeding and biotech policy during Bayer meeting; notes major concern involved slow regulatory process in China and the EU

Commentary: Indian physician writes for local news outlet, amplifying Sir Richard Roberts assessment that GMOs are safe and necessary to feed the growing population, highlights use of GM technology to create lifesaving drugs and vaccinations

News: Reuters reports on Chinese Ag Ministry's plans to step up supervision of seed sector following discovery of illegal GM corn cultivation last year, calling for more inspection of seed samples, and more inter-provincial cooperation to crack down on fake seed sales, to enable healthy development of the industry

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news outlet reports on EU Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker's proposed review of EU decision-making process, voicing frustration at comitology process, in which member states can refrain from making a stance, highlights Germany's recent abstention in vote on GMO authorizations

News: Italian news site reports EU court finds Italy legally able to ban GMOs despite EU approval of GM varieties

News: Agribusiness Intelligence reports EU 'admits more delay' on rules for new plant breeding techniques regulated under EU laws involving GMO technology, with any discussion to occur after new consultations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mexican agency seeks to allow GM crop cultivation but NGO attorney says there is not enough protection for countryside, other crops

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor criticizes government plans to promote GM crop cultivation, claims associated pesticide use contaminates the soil and groundwater, leading to health problems in those who drink it

News: Agence France-Presse reports extreme weather due to climate change reduces monarch's hibernation area by 27.4 percent, reducing its numbers; reports other factors affecting monarchs are GMO, pesticide use that reduces plants that are the butterfly's main food

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during this weekend's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the German government threatening that those using "biohacking kits" available on the Internet could face hefty fines or a prison sentence. A bill was introduced in the Oregon state legislature to allow counties to regulate GM crops and seed.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Gizmodo reported the German government noted that biohacking kits available on the Internet make it cheap and easy to experiment with gene editing, but those doing so without proper government authorization could face up to a 50,000-euro fine or up to three years in prison. **See more**.
- A National Public Radio affiliate in Oregon reported that biotech critics are supporting a bill before the Oregon state legislature that would allow counties to regulate or ban GM crops. The legislature passed a bill in 2013 that banned counties from taking such action. **See more**.

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North America

News: Canadian ag news outlet reports on CropLife Canada's call on government to modernize regulations to deal with gene-edited crops, noting knowledge of how the regulatory system will react to gene editing innovation is critical to making investment decisions, highlights US process of updating regulationsN

News: NPR reports Oregon farming groups pushing new legislation allowing counties to regulate GE crops; notes state legislature took away that right in 2013

Commentary: Food Babe claims Skittles spill on Wisconsin exposed farmer practice of "secretly" feeding them to cows, says it was bad enough that cows receive GM feed, antibiotics, hormones, advocates boycott of factory farm meat; shills for Butcher Box meat that is grass-fed, grass-finished, antibiotic- and hormone-free

News release: American Soybean Association, USFRA, other farm groups pursue collaboration with food companies on marketing practices, plan outreach on food biotechnology, sustainability, animal health to head off marketing employing incorrect information that erodes trust in US farmers, food supply

News: Canada-based Saskatoon StarPhoenix features Percy Schmeiser, a local farmer who 'took on Monsanto,' notes Schmeiser was sued over Roundup Ready canola he claims self-seeded on his farm through drift

More North America items

Africa

Video: NTA News notes while the Nigerian government supports the use of GMO technology, and says it has a system in place that will guarantee health and environmental safety, local Catholic church is appealing for caution

News: Kenyan news site op-ed writer says Africa should review GMOs as better option to increase harvests, decrease hunger

Commentary: Ghana news site notes GM crops can help address climate change, disease issues to help feed rising population

Commentary: AgBioForum contributors explore both sides of GM maize debate in Kenya, evaluating the 'economic and political motives' of those likely to lobby for or against GM crop cultivation

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Winnie Sancho of the Save-Sugar Industry Movement's "guarded optimism" regarding upcoming deliberations on high fructose corn syrup, a proposed amendment to ordinance banning GMOs would list HFCS as a possible "watchlist item," and require non-GMO certification from beverage companies

News: China News Service reports on Heilongjiang province's GMO ban, in spite of backlash from scholars who believe it will hinder domestic biotech development, Heilongjiang Contemporary China-Russia Regional Economy Research Institute President Song Kui noted the ban will benefit China's ag cooperation with Russia

News: Jakarta Post reports on Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts' assessment that anti-GMO sentiment could do more harm than good, at recent lecture entitled "Why You Should Love Bacteria"

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor examines debate over best course of action for Indian ag, questions NGO Samaj Pragati Sahayog's rejection of GM crops that require fewer chemical inputs, when their goal is to reduce chemical use, believes agronomic, financial and marketing support will help boost smallholder incomes

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports near-complete genome of quinoa unveiled by scientists who say the grain cultivated by Incas could help reduce hunger; researchers highlight potential for new crop breeding

News: Italian news site reports no contamination found in fields near illegally cultivated GM crop; government working on increasing sanctions for illegal biotech cultivation

Commentary: CropLife International posts infographic highlighting the fact that plant science is 'saving endangered foods' from devastating plant diseases; highlights orange, banana and papaya

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Agra-Net reports Monsanto wants legislation guaranteeing royalty rights before it releases its Intacta GM soy variety on Argentine market

News: Mexican news site reports environmental NGO claims SAGARPA illegally concealed 89 cases of GM contamination of native maize in Puebla and other states over last decade

News: Mexican news site reports Mexican biotech regulator asks landowners to report those illegally planting GM soy

News: Brazilian news site questions Brazil's biotech regulator's transparency, questions planned releases of products before field trial results are available, wonders if CTNBio has "hidden agenda"

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9 01:35 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 U.K.'s Sainsbury Laboratory had applied to field trial a new GM potato. In Europe, the president of the European Commission told news outlets that he planned to propose significant changes to the comitology process in order to break the ongoing deadlocks on controversial issues such as biotechnology approvals. U.S. media company Netflix released a new trailer for Bill Nye's upcoming documentary series, noting that one episode will focus on GM crops.

Consolidated highlights include:

- In Europe, Sainsbury Laboratory announced that had applied to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for permission to field trial a new genetically modified potato resistant to late blight. A local news report noted that researchers and legislators were hopeful about the potential to commercialize new crops following the Brexit vote. **See more**.
- Politico Europe, echoing similar reports from earlier in the week, reported that European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker told his commissioners last week that he planned to announce a "radical" change in comitology processes. In a September State of the Union address, Juncker had criticized member nations for not taking responsibility on politically risky decisions such as the approval of GM crop traits for import or cultivation. The issue is likely to resurface next month pending another vote on whether to reject or approve three GM maize crops for cultivation. **See more**.
- Netflix issued a new trailer for the upcoming science outreach series "Bill Nye Saves the World." The video noted that Nye would tackle contentious issues such as climate change and plant biotechnology. The series will be available for streaming starting in late April. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: In second article of Genetic Literacy Project series, UC Davis' Alison Van Eenennaam argues gene edited animals should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, regulatory frameworks should consider both benefits and costs

Video: Netflix series "Bill Nye Saves the World," starting April 21, features the science guy discussing GMOs, other issues with experts and celebrity guests

Commentary: Environmental and public health NGO urges "Buycott" against companies who lobbied against GMO labeling law and now use SmartLabel QR codes on their products

News: Colorado news site reports Boulder County officials seeking proposals for alternatives to GE crop use on county-owned lands; part of plan approved for phasing out GM corn and sugar beet

Commentary: Oregon NGO Friends of Family farmers lists important bills recently introduced to state legislature, including repeal of prohibition on locally enacted bans on GM crops, and one holding patent-

holders of those crops financially liable, promotes April rally

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: IIED Southern Africa manager of the Sustainable Diets for All project ponders whether Zambian worm infestation will encourage a policy shift away from monocropping maize

News: South African news outlet reports Bt maize may be resistant to fall armyworm, features podcast with Agricultural Research Council's Institute for grain crops entomologist Dr. Annemie Erasmus

News: Nigerian television outlet reports on Auxiliary Bishop of the Abuja Catholic Archdiocese's statement against GMOs, arguing that Nigeria can produce enough food using natural agricultural practices; National Biosafety Management Agency's Rufus Ebegba noted the Church's position is misconstrued

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Smart Indian Agriculture summarizes Annual Review of Resource Economics paper, says environmentalists have linked GE technology to corporate control of ag systems

News: The Hindu reports on Indian government's steps to develop policy on synbio, with Environment Ministry convening an expert panel to evaluate extent of synbio work in Indian labs, potential benefits and risks, and the implications of trans-boundary movement

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: Sainsbury Laboratory announces submission of application to DEFRA for approval to conduct field trial on GM blight-resistant potatoes, provides answers to several questions, including measures that will be taken to ensure that the trial remains contained and will not spread to conventional potatoes

News: UK news outlet reports on Sainsbury Laboratory's application to conduct field trials of late blight-resistant GM potatoes, lead scientist Jonathan Jones notes late blight leads to between $4 and $7 billion in losses each year, not including costs of chemical inputs, highlights public concern about GMOs

News: Politico reports on Dow and DuPont's offer to divest portions of their portfolios to assuage antitrust concerns in Europe surrounding $140 billion merger, EU Commission has set new deadline of April 4 to review the remedies

Announcement: European Ombudsman announces resolution of complaint filed by a research institute on EU Commission's failure to reply to request for information on whether its CRISPR/Cas9 developed product constituted a GMO under EU legislation, summarizes Commission's response

News: Politico reports that European Commission president is proposing revisions to comitology process for EU, says EU nations abdicate responsibility for controversial decisions

Commentary: The Greens/European Free Alliance voices opposition to CETA, raising concerns about Investment Court System and promotion of GMOs, highlighting CropLife Canada's praise of the agreement for working to shorten timelines for approval of GM crops, and to strengthen 'science-based' regulation

News: Italian news site reports GM grain intended for animal feed ended up in cornmeal used in food, 15 tons of GM cornmeal removed from shelves; notes GMOs not a threat to health

News: Italian news site reports 5-Star Movement urges EU Parliament's Environment Committee to

reject authorization of 20 GM corn varieties

Event: Federation of Swedish Farmers announces member webinar on genetic engineering, will address issues of sustainability and new plant breeding techniques

News: Swiss news site reports Federal Council to discuss GMO moratorium during special session

News: Serbian news sites report Serbian Minister of Trade says there is huge public opposition in Serbia to amend ban on GMOs, a condition for joining the World Trade Organization

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site reports Monsanto, Mexican agencies undermine court order prohibiting GM maize cultivation by covertly cooperating with farmers to continue GM crop planting

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on development of GM ryegrasses designed to produce 50 percent more yield, between 10-15 percent more energy and lower methane, AgResearch is sending the grass to the US for field trials due to New Zealand's strict GMO laws

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 international reporting on the Chinese government's Central Document, which outlined the country's agricultural priorities for 2017. In Africa, concerns over fall armyworm predation prompted a statement from Grain SA highlighting the potential for biotech traits to combat the pest.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Reuters and other international outlets reported on the Chinese government's 2017 Central Document No. 1, which focused on the country's agricultural goals for the coming year. News sites noted that the policy statement was a departure from the country's earlier focus on supply and seemed to reflect a new acceptance of international trade and imports to meet local consumer demand. A CCTV interview with farming and development officials highlighted a new emphasis on "green development" in rural sectors. **See more**.
- Concerns about a significant fall armyworm presence in southern Africa prompted widespread local media coverage of current programs and interventions for controlling the pest. In a statement, Grain SA noted that a significant percentage of South Africa's maize was genetically modified. The group added that it was currently testing the maize to determine whether the GM varieties could help control armyworm infestations. **See more**.

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North America

News: Agricultural business news outlets reports Trump executive order requiring two laws removed for every new 2017 law enacted puts future of federal GMO labeling law into question; note 2018 enactment date may save law from withdrawal

Commentary: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy lists eight questions for President Trump's pick for Ag Secretary, former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, voicing concern about ag industry mergers, as well as problem of "superweeds" and insect resistance which it associates with pesticide use on GM crops

News: Capital Press reports Washington Wheat Commission received praise from overseas buyers on industry's handling of Washington GE wheat outbreak, though some voiced disappointment that cause is still unknown

Commentary: Contributor to The Plaid Zebra explains many benefits of GMOs, noting they are healthy and help reduce pesticide use, fuel consumption and land use, notes organic production also uses pesticides, and that organic is not a feasible method of feeding the world, noting it is a luxury

News: Canadian news outlet reports on upcoming public conference on GMOs on February 28, organized by MP Francois Choquette, New Democrat MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke) will introduce his GMO labeling bill

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news site reports Grain SA says more than 75 percent of country's maize crops may be able to resist the fall armyworm that has devastated crops in countries that don't plant GM seed

News: Investment news outlet reports on devastating fall armyworm attack spreading across southern Africa, highlighting Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International's call for urgent action, and FAO's upcoming emergency meeting in Zimbabwe, the pest has potential to impact over 100 different crops

News: Bloomberg reports on fall armyworm invasion devastating crops across Africa, highlights FAO's assessment that it could soon spread to Asia and the Mediterranean, threatening agricultural trade worldwide, FAO notes the pest can cause crop losses of up to 73 percent, and is difficult to control with a single type of pesticide

News: South African Government News Agency reports on launch of Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan to fight fall armyworm attacks, Ag Minsitry Registrar Jonathan Madzunga noted there are pesticides available that are already registered, voicing confidence that farmers will use them safely

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: China.org.cn posts question and answer session between local media outlets and government officials, highlighting the role of "green development" in the China's new Central Document Number One

News: Reuters reports China publishes rural policy document revealing country plans for major shift in ag policy, abandoning focus on self-sufficiency in favor of better meeting consumer demand; promotes embrace of int'l markets

News: Indian news source reports head of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation says GE mustard, fruit borer-resistant Bt brinjal should be released, arguing their safety is demonstrated and they offer farmers best chance to succeed

News: Indian finance news outlet reports on Ag Ministry committee's recommendation of further 10 percent reduction in trait value for Bt cotton, and plans to reduce trait values year after year, in spite of Monsanto's opposition

News: European Seed reports on China National Seed Group's development of insect and disease resistant high-yielding rice variety using breeding chip technology, Zhang Qifa of Chinese Academy of Sciences noted the technology will help prevent health and environmental problems caused by pesticide use

More Asia items

Europe

News: French science news outlet reports on UK Environment Ministry's authorization of GM wheat field trials by Rothamsted Research, with goal of boosting yields via increased photosynthetic efficiency, highlights INRA's assessment that weak yields are due to climate change rather than varietal weakness

Commentary: Swansea West MP and European Scrutiny Committee member Geraint Davies writes for Global Justice Now, voicing concern about closed-door CETA vote, as well as Investor Court Systems that would allow companies to sue governments for laws aimed at protecting health and the environment

Commentary: Jan Schaart and Rene Smulders of Wageningen UR Plant Breeding in The Netherlands write for European Seed, examining challenges inherent in gene editing technology, as well as its potential applications, they believe that over time it may become a generally applied technology

News: U.K. news site reports non-browning GM apple could be sold in British stores after Brexit; adds some environmentalists oppose GM crops, but others think the apples break down taboos and start making GM crops mainstream

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources' (Semarnat) dismissal of lawsuit over GM crop cultivation in Yucatan, ruling that Executive Federal order against the state's decree prohibiting GM crop cultivation violates the state's sovereignty

Video: RT correspondent Ricardo Romero analyzes debate surrounding Argentina's seed law, as Monsanto seeks payment for IP rights and farmers demand right to use seeds freely

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included reports out of Norway that researchers developed a genetically modified salmon designed to be infertile. U.S. media outlets discussed a new book examining GM agriculture in the country.

Consolidated highlights include:

- News outlets in Norway reported that the country's Biotechnology Council was reviewing a genetically modified salmon designed to be infertile. The new salmon was intended to address concerns about farmed salmon escaping into wild environments. Aftenposten noted that researchers used gene-editing techniques, adding that Swiss authorities had declined to regulate those products as traditional GM crops. **See more**.
- U.S. news outlets continued to promote a new book by environmental writer McKay Jenkins, "Food Fight: GMOs and the Future of the American Diet." In an interview with The Washington Post, Jenkins said that there seemed to be little support for health concerns linked to the crops broadly but added that they promote an unsustainable agricultural model. Jenkins said that the book also highlights the work of pro-GMO scientists looking to improve agricultural sustainability. **See more**.

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North America

Interview: Washington Post features McKay Jenkins, author of book about GMO controversy; Jenkins says concerns about negative health and environmental effects of GMOs fundamentally miss the mark, adding industrial agriculture system and its centralized power is what deserves criticism

News: In agricultural news roundup, Politico reports that the 2016 federal GM labeling bill looks to be exempt from the executive order requiring existing regulations to be removed before new regulations are implemented

Commentary: Conservative news site columnist says despite recent ABC poll showing over half of Americans feel GMOs are unsafe, lack of outrage over non-browning GM apples may mean perceptions are changing; adds improved apples would help reduce food waste, fight malnutrition, protect environment

Campaign: March Against Monsanto says area activists have joined to halt Monsanto's greenhouse project in Pima County, Arizona, call for additional support as soon as possible; GMO Free USA's call-to-action to contact Pima County representatives amplified

Commentary: Quartz contributor examines ways in which food politics have sparked nonpartisan populism on "common sense" issues such as GMO labeling, highlighting effect of Vermont's GMO labeling law on national policy; says while GMOs are deemed safe, anti-GMO movement's demands are being heard

News: Farm news service reports Kansas City, Kansas federal court will hold first of several class-action lawsuit hearings against Syngenta over Viptera corn in June; lawsuits claim company should have inspected and prevented harvested Viptera corn from being shipped to China in 2013 and 2014

More North America items

Africa

News: South African news outlet reports on threats posed to maize crops across the country by recent armyworm invasion, farmers have invested thousands on multiple pesticides, none of which have proven effective, farmer Klaus Wasserman noted GM crops have proven more resistant

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Biotechnology Society of Nigeria President Benjamin Ubi's call for increased investment in biotech to improve food security and sustainable ag practices, calling for investment in international cooperation, research and extension services, gene banks

Letter to the editor: Concerned citizen writes to Rwandan news outlet, warning about potential health risks of GMOs, linking them to cancer and diabetes, advocates use of precautionary principle

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Malaysian news site guest columnist, Academy of Sciences professor, says R&D in rubber industry could be strengthened in biotechnology; adds understanding genome key to explore potential to improve yield and other properties

Study: Study in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology found no adverse impacts of GmTMT transgenic maize in 90-day toxicity study in Sprague-Dawley rats, authors conclude the GM maize is as safe and nutritious as its conventional counterpart

News: The Hindu reports on collaborative research from Oklahoma State University and New Delhi-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology to better understand high salt tolerance in Pokkali rice endemic to Kerala, with goal of identifying specific molecules that enable growth in high-salinity conditions

News: Press Trust of India reports that GM mustard has undergone 10 years of safety assessments for human health and the environment, under oversight of three-tier statutory regulatory committees with external experts, according to Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave

More Asia items

Europe

News: Norwegian news site Forskning reports Biotechnology Council considering approval of sterile GM salmon; researchers say sexless salmon won't be able to breed with wild salmon, will also be engineered to resist sea lice, disease, contain more omega-3

Report: Review in Sustainability argues organic farming should embrace co-existence with cisgenic late blight-resistant potato, noting advances in genetic engineering make it more predictable than conventional breeding, the resulting product could occur naturally, and that cisgenic potatoes may be exempt from GMO regulations

News: Italian news outlet reports on discovery that GM corn intended for animal use was made into polenta consumed at recent Sermoneta festival, resulting in product recall of 15 tons, highlights Italian law stipulating that products containing GMOs over 0.9 percent per kilogram must be labeled

News: EFE reports on recent EU vote on GM maize varieties which failed to reach qualified majority, Friends of the Earth's Blanca Ruibal claimed GMOs pose serious environmental and agronomic problems, and do not contribute to solving food security problems of rising population

News: French news outlet reports on recent College of European Commissioners debate on revision of the "comitology" procedure, as Brussels does not want to be in position of deciding on controversial issues such as GMOs and glyphosate as a last resort due to lack of qualified majority between Member States

More Europe items

Latin America

News: World Grain reports Russia could ban livestock soy forage from Brazil over GMOs; notes of 318 agricultural producers in Brazil only 160 may supply products to Russia

News: U.K.'s Agrow reports industry legal challenge to suspension of GM crop trials in Mexico has failed; latest challenge came from a class action including Syngenta, Dow, DuPont and Monsanto

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 6, 2017
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:03:46 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features fresh criticism of anti-glyphosate campaigns and lawsuits, a look at the ramifications of Europe's neonic restrictions on oilseed rape farmers and commentary on misleading campaigns against GMOs, pesticides and antibiotics.

Looking ahead, a meeting examining the future of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) highlights this week's calendar - and our spotlighted stakeholder has played a key role in the run-up to the proceedings in Brazil.

Please contact us if you have any questions. The full text of the articles below can be viewed by logging in to the Bonus Eventus Community site. First-time users will need to fill out the Request Membership form on the front page. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: International POPs Elimination Network

The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has been working with the Center for International Law to coordinate lobbying activities related to SAICM, including advance work for this week's meeting in Brazil.

IPEN last week released a "quick notes" document detailing its SAICM goals, including recommending a levy on the chemical industry to pay for the program and an agroecology initiative.

Stories Worth Sharing

Kavin Senapathy: Natural, non-GMO, cage-free and other buzzwords provide "provide the illusion of knowledge" about food products

Alison Van Eenenaam provides reminder of "damning criticism" of Seralini research repackaged in new anti-glyphosate study

OFAB's Rose Gidado: Nigerian farmers "can't wait" to have GMO technology, which can help ensure food security

Ruth Kava: Anti-GMO scaremongers making world wait to experience better-tasting tomatoes

Angela Logomasini: California should scrap plan to list glyphosate under Prop 65, lack of science behind cancer claims " appalling"

Ghanaian university faculty member: Politicians should pass bills to allow biotechnology, ignore "irrational and absurd" scaremongers

Farmers Weekly: Survey finds British oilseed rape farmers suffered 8 percent losses due to pests, drought, lack of neonics

Henry Miller: Genetic engineering could make production of blue jeans cheaper, more sustainable

French business writer compares Nutella cancer scare to NGO campaigning based on "misconstrued" IARC glyphosate cancer claim

Animal Health Institute VP: Scientific American article spreads

IPEN claims to be a global network of more than 700 public interest, non-governmental organizations - primarily in developing and transitional countries - that are united in support of the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and in opposition to multinational corporations and transnational trade agreements. The U.S-based CIEL appears to be its primary financial backer and coordinating organization, providing $300,000 to $900,000 annually while other IPEN leadership includes Greenpeace and the Russian NGO Eco-Accord.

LEARN MORE about IPEN and its advocacy on the SAICM issue and its implementation for 2020 and beyond.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

misinformation, fails to recognize agriculture's commitment to judicious antibiotic use

IFPRI report suggests Pakistan should better regulate seed markets, incentivize private investment in R&D of hybrids, transgenics

Center for Consumer Freedom ad counters "propaganda" from Humane Society of the United States president on antibiotic use

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

U.S. federal appeals court revives "mega" lawsuit challenging hundreds of pesticide registrations

Mexican NGO launches new campaign claiming GM crops are harmful to human health and the environment

Southern African countries mobilizing emergency measures in response to armyworm outbreak

Regulatory freeze puts implementation of U.S. GMO labeling law in limbo

California judge allows state to label glyphosate as carcinogen under Proposition 65

Calendar highlights

February 7-8	February 7	February 7
1st Meeting of the Intercessional Process for SAICM Beyond 2020	Tyrone Hayes presentation at Claremont-McKenna College in California	New York Academy of Medicine "Antibiotic Stewardship in Agriculture and Health Care" panel
February 9-11	**February 11**	**February 13**
American Veterinary Medical Association global summit: "Food Security - Understanding the role of Animal Health & Well-Being"	Beyond Toxics Protecting Pollinators forum on declining native bee population, neonics	Closing date to request observer status for IARC monograph 119 on chemicals in food and consumer products

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Date: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10 56:51 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 an attorney for the Institute for Responsible Technology trying to persuade the Cayman Islands to use another method to reduce the mosquito population rather than releasing GM mosquitoes. In Virginia, a state GMO labeling bill was introduced that attempts to get around the federal bill that bans state labeling of GM food.

Consolidated highlights include:

- An attorney for the Institute for Responsible Technology, founded by Jeffrey Smith, pitched using walbachia bacteria to infect mosquitoes carrying the zika virus in the Cayman Islands as opposed to releasing GE mosquitoes to reduce the aedes aegypti population. William Petrie of the Caymans' Mosquito Research and Control Unit explained the walbachia method involves releasing female mosquitoes, which bite, and said it is not self-contained while the GE mosquito method is self-contained. A Martinique media site reported the GE mosquito pilot project has been highly successful in reducing mosquitoes, and there had not been a Zika case in the islands since November. **See more**.
- In the Virginia General Assembly, a bill was introduced that would require a label on all food containing a GM ingredient that would read, "Congress prohibits states from requiring the on-package labeling of the GMO content of this product." A federal GMO labeling bill passed in 2016 would require GM labels or QR codes but would not go into effect for two years. The federal bill also bans states from labeling GM food. **See more**.

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health urges supporters to participate in FDA's public comment period on gene edited food, noting participation in the conversation leads to stronger, science-based decisions

Commentary: Rachel Parent writes for Huffington Post Canada, criticizing Health Canada's plans to use findings of recent study of consumer perceptions of GMOs to improve communication, claims GMOs are not a legitimate tool for improving food production and that GMO labeling is a "basic human right"

News: Organic Authority reports on FDA and USDA's efforts towards modernization of GMO regulations, highlighting FDA's expanded scope of guidance on gene editing in animals, and its request for comment on whether voluntary premarket consultations could be skipped for certain gene edited plants

Commentary: Food & Water Watch voices concern on current "gag order" on USDA, noting the practice is not new, points to incident during Obama administration where ten USDA scientists petitioned USDA about suppression of science, complaining about agency efforts to support Monsanto's research agenda

News: Baltimore Business Journal reports famed stock picker bullish about Intrexon, a Maryland biotech that makes GE salmon and non-browning GM apples

News: Philadelphia news site reports cacao farmers are concerned about sustainability and says researchers are pinpointing disease resistant genes; quotes Penn State University scientist on the potential benefits of GM crop development

Report: Farm Journal Foundation policy briefing paper argues that it is in the US' best insterest to invest in African agri-food systems and support a sustainable and efficient global food system, highlighting importance of public-private partnerships to help African organization develop their own tools

More North America items

Africa

News: African business news site reports Gates Foundation invests $8.4 million to produce improved seed for small farms in Africa

Commentary: March Against Monsanto claims Monsanto, Gates Foundation attempt to control world food production by getting GM seed into Nigeria, says Nigeran Farmers Alliance asks farmers to reject GMOs

News: Big News Network reports on Zimbabwe's continued GMO ban in spite of increasing hunger, orphanage director notes they are not picky about whether food is GMO or non-GMO because the situation is "unbearable," government officials maintain the ban protects Zimbabwe's environment

Interview: AGRA president tells Deutsche Welle access to seeds and ag technology is vital to agricultural sustainability for small-scale farmers

Commentary: Belgian news site reporter, in series on GMOs in Africa, says Monsanto, Syngenta out to capture Africa's seed market by luring farmers with water-efficient GM maize; says small farmers cannot afford GM seed and expensive inputs; farmer says the corporations want to "cash in on climate change"

Commentary: Michigan State University professor Thomas Jayne writes for The Conversation, argues that investing in African agri-food systems is in the US national interest, believes US organizations should help African organizations develop their own technologies and services

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news source reports Philippines provincial board seeks to add amendments to country's anti-GMO ordinance, board members want assurances that products with HFCS to be GMO-free, monitoring team planned for implementation

Study: Chinese researchers find Bt rice poses negligible risks to non-target insects, notes previous studies of Bt rice effects are either consistent with or more conservative than field study results

News: Reuters reports activists say only way to prevent Indian farmer suicides is to increase land holdings size, say smaller farms are unsustainable

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.K.-based Financial Times reports Dow and Dupont offer to sell research and development components to ease EU's antitrust concern

News: Reuters reports EU will approve ChemChina's purchase of Switzerland-based Syngenta; reports Chinese company to make minor concessions, including divesting in national product registrations

Commentary: Dutch magazine contributor dispels common myths about GMOs, noting gene transfer is not possible and that all GMOs on the market must undergo rigorous health and environmental risk assessments, highlights many benefits of GMOs and new techniques such as CRISPR

Audio: BBC radio segment examines GM crop safety debate in advance of Rothamsted GM wheat trials; Rothamsted researcher vouches for safety of the field trials, GM Freeze director argues safety can't be guaranteed and focus should be on food distribution, not production

News: European agricultural news site reports European Commission to revise rules on issuing GMO, pesticide permits; will present ideas Feb. 14

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Russia Today reports on opposition to Argentina's seed law, Carlos Vicente of the multisectoral 'No to the new Monsanto seed law ' claims the law would concentrate power over the food system into the hands of multinationals

Commentary: Contributor to Mexican news site amplifies Scientific Reports study and claims GM maize produces toxic compounds and is not equivalent to conventional maize

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Judge Pablo Vicente Monroy Gómez's criticism of federal government's attempt to block Yucatan's GMO-free status as unconstitutional, emphasizing importance of states' rights, defending Yucatan's sovereign right to protect itself from alleged harms of GMOs

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on Maori Party's praise of Pure Hawke's Bay's campaign video calling on them to withdraw support from legislation restricting local councils from banning GMOs, Party co-leader Marama Fox noted plans to negotiate the bill when Parliament resumes next week

More Oceania items

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Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:01:18 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 researcher and a dean of law questioning whether organic fruit can be exported from areas that use GM insects. An agricultural news site reported the European Commission will change the way member states influence draft legislation.

Consolidated highlights include:

- A molecular geneticist from the Max Planck Institute in Germany and the law school dean from the University of Saskatchewan questioned in a news release whether organic produce can be exported from countries that use GM insects. They point out the GM insects could be transported around the globe and say U.S. regulators must ensure organic producers they will not suffer losses due to the insects. **See more**.
- Agrow, a U.K.-based agricultural news site, reported the European Commission will change the way member states influence draft legislation, including those related to GM crops and pesticides. The announcement comes as the commission faces pressure to reject three GM maize varieties for cultivation after the crops were rejected by member states. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: Business Insider reports on habits associated with cancer risk; cites IARC on carcinogenicity of red and processed meats, positive effects of coffee; notes no conclusive link between GMOs or hormones in beef to cancer

News: Cayman Island news site reports Institute for Responsible Technology claims there are potentially other species of mosquitos in the Cayman Islands carrying diseases like Zika as a result of the MRCU's GM mosquito project, adding MRCU denies claims

Report: Report by Virginia Tech funded Information Systems for Biotechnology examines controversies surrounding GMOs, highlighting research by Brandon R. McFadden and Jayson Lusk on lack of consumer understanding about GMOs, as well as debate surrounding recently passed federal GMO labeling law

Commentary: Dana Perls of Friends of the Earth writes for STAT, calling for strict regulation of products of gene editing, claiming recently approved Arctic apples may pose health and environmental risks, claims traditional GMOs have increased pesticide use, highlights IARC's and Seralini's research on glyphosate

More North America items

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina condemns Tanzania's criminalization of traditional seed exchange among farmers, who now face heavy penalties and possible imprisonment, calls for promotion of traditional seed exchange and agroecologcial methods to meet increasing demand for healthy, sustainable food

Commentary: South Dakota State University Plant Science Ph.D. candidate writes for Ghanaian news outlet, calling on politicians to listen to science rather than scaremongers when making decisions on GMOs, notes that when activisits make unsubstantiated claims that GMOs cause cancer, we should demand incontestable empirical data

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network recaps upcoming USDA GMO regulatory issues, questions USDA's readiness to allow companies to use QR codes on GM food packaging with agency consumer study pending currently lacking needed funds, suggests QR approach might fool customers

News: Filipino news site reports government moves against high fructose corn syrup imports with proposal to amend province's ordinance on GMOs; experts say HFCS comes from corn but isn't GMO

More Asia items

Europe

News: RT reports British government has approved a new experimental crop of GM wheat, despite strong opposition from around 30 green groups; wheat variety has reportedly boosted yields by up to 40 percent

News: Romanian news site reports government bans GM crops within 200 meters of Bulgarian, Hungarian borders to avoid cross-border cross contamination

Commentary: Belgian news site reporter says in series on biotech crops that stories claiming GM crops will save world from hunger are urban legends

Commentary: Belgian news site reports farmers, NGOs say Golden Rice not solution to malnutrition; Greenpeace advocates vitamin supplements, Bangladeshi farmer says people need jobs, money to solve hunger issue

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Investment firm reports biotechnology company Bioceres S.A files to withdraw US IPO plans; had filed for US IPO of up to $80.5 million of its ordinary shares in Sept. 2015

News: Nicaraguan news site reports agricultural union begins preparation to cultivate GM crops, but anti-biotech groups say they will oppose GM crops' introduction

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE Free New Zealand accuses AgResearch of wasting taxpayer money in GE ryegrass trials being conducted in the US, claiming there is no evidence of its benefits, and pointing to research linking GMOs to liver damage, and claims that GM crops do not boost yields or reduce pesticide inputs

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 U.K. researchers were preparing for a spring field trial of a new, efficient-growing GM wheat. Mexican news outlets reported on the launch of a new advocacy campaign against GM maize in the country. In Asia, Korean media outlets reported that a new GMO labeling law takes effect this week.

Consolidated highlights include:

- British media outlets reported that scientists with Rothamsted Research have received permission from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for field trials of a new, high-yielding GM wheat variety. The trials are scheduled for the 2017-18 growing season. The Daily Mail reported on resistance to the field trials from activist groups such as GM Freeze. **See more**.
- In Mexico, activists with the Colectividad del Maíz held a news conference to launch their latest campaign calling for a complete ban on GM maize in the country. The campaign, organized under the social media hashtag #NoMásAbusosVselMaíz, plans to issue new scientific reports on the "dangers" of consuming GM maize. **See more**.
- South Korean news outlets reported that the country's new zero-tolerance GMO labeling law will go into effect on Feb. 4, though the regulations remain surrounded by controversy. Consumer activist groups claimed that the law should follow European guidelines and require GMO labeling if biotechnology is used in any part of the production process. **See more**.

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North America

News: Inverse Culture reports climate change will affect the way people eat, effort invested in genetic engineering of existing crops to produce higher yields, make them less vulnerable to climate change

News: Newsweek reports on controversy surrounding USDA's quick decision to deregulate GM bentgrass made by Monsanto and Scotts', Oregon State University weed science professor Carol Mallory-Smith noted farmers who didn't introduce the grass and won't gain from it will now be responsible for controlling it

News: BuzzFeed reports on potential trade deal between US and UK post-Brexit, American Farm Bureau Federation hopes the UK will be more open to negotiating use of GM foods, hormone-treated beef and chlorinated chicken

News: Law firm reports marketing GE crops just got easier as CRISPR gene edited crops may face reduced regulatory hurdles; says USDA has determined many aren't regulated under Plant Protection Act

Commentary: Daily Kos contributor emphasizes overwhelming scientific consensus on GMO safety, highlighting statements in support of GMO safety from scientific groups and government bodies across

the globe, notes about half of GMO food research is independently funded

Commentary: Henry Miller writes for Wall Street Journal, promotes several benefits of genetic engineering, highlights potential for the technology to make blue jean production cheaper and more sustainable, using Bt cotton and indigo dye made with GE bacteria

Interview: In advance of DC Food Tank Summit, Cancer Schmancer executive director advocates regenerative, organic non-GMO sustainable farming, claims current ag practices lead people to consume animals, plants filled with pesticides, herbicides, hormones, antibiotics, GMO Round-Up Ready

More North America items

Africa

News: ISAAA reports Ugandan Parliament member wants his constituents to be first to benefit from drought- and pest-resistant GM maize; pledges his support for biosafety bill

Report: USDA GAIN Report finds, despite being drafted in 2014, there is no clear timetable for when or if the Jordanian biosafety law will be ratified by parliament; notes country's animal industry relies on feed imports

More Africa items

Asia

News: Kazakhstan news site reports Kazakhstan business making Italian cheeses without GMOs or additives, says demand is growing for its products; adds cheeses as good as European types

News: Korean business news outlet reports on controversy surrounding recently introduced GMO labeling standards, civic organizations criticized the rules for failing to advocate for consumers' right to know, industry officials noted stricter standards would lead to increase in expensive non-GMO imports

News: Korea Times reports on controversy surrounding government's new rules on GMO labeling, highlights consumer groups' opposition to exemption for processed foods which contain no traces of GMOs in the final product, as well as debate surrounding non-GMO labeling rules

More Asia items

Europe

News: Daily Mail (UK) reports on government approval of field trials for GM wheat by Rothamsted Research, designed with enhanced photosynthetic abilities to boost yields, highlights potential application in other important crops, as well as opposition from GM Freeze

News: BBC reports planting of experimental crop of GM wheat will occur this spring following UK government approval; green organizations concerned the wheat will escape into wild

Commentary: Trinity College professor highlights EU 'paralysis' on GM crop decision-making; says UK absence due to Brexit will not impact on regulatory committee outcomes

News: Italian ag news site reports Italian scientific research association hosted conference to present correct information on GMO benefits and opportunities to overcome ideological opposition to biotechnology; official says precautionary principle is out of date

News: French news site reports police summon man suspected of helping to destroy GM crop field in Dijon on Nov. 4

News release: Hungarian Ag Minister Sándor Fazekas recently spoke at International Green Week in Berlin, affirming Hungary's commitment to moving forward with "traditional, sustainable, non-GM food production and farming practices"

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site says Corn Collective accuses Monsanto of dishonesty during lawsuit, launches campaign to publicize studies that claim GMOs damage health, environment

News: Mexican news site reports plaintiffs in GM maize lawsuit against corporations, Corn Collective, launches campaign to present scientific research that GMOs harm health, environment

News: La Jornada reports Corn Collective announces campaign to ban GM maize in Mexico, says it will present scientific research on "dangers of consuming" GMOs

News: Mexican news site reports attorneys in lawsuit against GM maize say Monsanto wants to illegally plant GMOs during trial despite opponents' claims the crop harms human health, environment; say Monsanto wants to prolong the trial

News: Mexican news agency reports plaintiffs in GM maize suit launch campaign to highlight claims of health, environment damage from cultivating GM maize

More Latin America items

Oceania

Audio: Radio New Zealand interviews Environment Minister Nick Smith on proposed changes to Resource Management Act, he explains why local council restrictions of GMOs won't work, voicing concern about liver cancer treatment trials in Auckland, emphasizes problem with marketing that isn't science-based

Audio: New Zealand news site reports local councils disagree with federal government over who has right to determine if farm land is GMO-free; local farmers say government wants to interfere in GMO decisions

More Oceania items

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Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9 04:36 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 new media analysis of a recent Trump administration executive order and its impact on a GMO labeling proposal. Commentary on the EU's recent vote to reject new GM maize varieties continued. In Latin America, Greenpeace Mexico released a report on its well-publicized advocacy coordination trip to Cuba.

Consolidated highlights include:

- U.S. industry and political news outlets reviewed the implications of a recent executive order issued by the Trump administration that called for the removal of two regulations for every new regulation approved. The order also required all new regulations to be budget-neutral. The Progressive Farmer reported that the Trump administration's regulatory freeze meant that the USDA might not make its June 2018 deadline for public feedback on a new GMO labeling law. Politico Pro, in a report issued late Monday, noted that the new order was likely to stall the GMO labeling proposal despite the law's Congressional mandate. **See more**.
- In Europe, commentary on last week's European Committee vote over GM maize authorizations continued. Italian media reports noted that Greenpeace Italy and Slow Food Italy had criticized Italian MEPs for voting in favor of the authorizations. The groups noted that Italy currently maintains its moratorium on GM crop cultivation. **See more**.
- Following an advocacy coordination visit to Cuba, Greenpeace Mexico issued a report that praised Cuba's agricultural system for its protection of smallholder farmer rights. The group called for more investment in agroecological practices and praised regional governments in the Yucatan for attempting to implement GE-free zones. **See more**.

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North America

News: Politico reports on latest Trump executive order, indicates demand to cut two regulations for every regulation rule will essentially halt all D.C. rule-making; GMO labeling bill likely to be stalled

News: The Progressive Farmer reports Trump administration's broader regulatory freeze halts USDA plans to seek public comment on implementing legislation creating a nationwide labeling system for foods made with GMOs

Commentary: Forbes columnist Senapathy suggests planned March for Science demonstrates that stifling science is unacceptable; adds anti-science views on vaccines, GMOs cut across political lines, adding biotech isn't inherently good nor bad

Commentary: Seattle news site columnist reports Washington Apple Commission director says industry trusts science behind GMO apples, though fears backlash from consumers less certain about GMO safety

Commentary: Organic Lifestyle Magazine contributor says despite USDA approving non-browning GM apples, like many GM plants, only time will tell if they're safe; adds consumers should buy organic

apples

Commentary: UC Davis animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam debunks recent Seralini study claiming to demonstrate link between Roundup and fatty liver disease in rats, pointing to multiple flaws in data and methodology, laments that the study was accepted by a peer-reviewed journal

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency - Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana claims ag ministry attempted to misinform Ghanaians about implication of Plant Breeders Bill; reaffirms group's opposition to bill

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ag Minister Afriyie Akoto's pledge to support farmers' use of modern technology to boost yields, he noted modern methods other than GM will be employed, and criticized Food Sovereignty Ghana's oppostition as uninformed, noting Plant Breeders Bill has nothing to do with GMOs

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science promotes establishment of Gates Foundation-funded Sub-Saharan Africa seed production entity aimed at supplying high quality seed to small and medium enterprises; describes move as way to boost yields, offset crop losses among small-holder farmers

News: Nigeria-based Guardian newspaper reports HOMEF director Nnimmo Bassey tells Bassey Andah memorial lecture attendees the Nigeria Bio-safety Management Act is 'extremely permissive,' and hurts environmental protections

Interview: Nigerian news outlet interviews Country Coordinator of the Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Rose Gidado, who dispels common myths about GMO safety and farmers' ability to save and reuse seeds, she notes farmers are ready for the technology, which will empower them and boost food security

Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity announces submission of comments on Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement Bills to the Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources, voicing concern that the bills will restrict saving, trading, exchanging and sale of seed

More Africa items

Asia

News: Pakistan news site reports IFPRI report argues Pakistan needs to build up resilience of its ag sector through investment in ag research, science to maintain and increase yields and build tolerance to pests, diseases and disasters

News: Indian news site summarizes GMO controversy, notes scientific consensus says food derived from GM crops poses no greater risk to health than conventional food

News: Filipino news outlet reports on Negros Occidental Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr.'s assessment that its GMO ban ordinance is difficult to implement, following call by sugar industry to ban beverages containing GM high fructose corn syrup

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Eco-activist blogger for GreenBiz amplifies Slow Food Italy criticism of Italy's vote on GM maize authorizations, calls the decision 'hypocrisy' and says legislators aren't listening to citizens

Commentary: Spanish anti-GMO NGO Ecologistas en Accion provides details of recent vote on thre GM maize varieties, listing how each member state voted, notes EU Commission's next step is to send the decision to an appeals committee

Commentary: Norway's Biotechnology Council examines frequent evocation of Frankenstein in connection with GMOs, highlights historian Siv Frøydis Berg's opinion that Frankenstein speaks to people's concerns that interfering with nature may produce uncontrollable results

Announcement: Norway's Biotechnology Council announces agenda for its upcoming meeting, which will include discussion of gene drives and GM crop approval applications

News: German news agency reports survey finds most consumers more likely to buy conventional foods than organic products; adds main reason for purchase of organic is consumer concern about pesticides or antibiotics

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Greenpeace Mexico announces publication of new report following its recent visit to Cuba along with members of Mayan communities from Campeche and Yucatan, promotes strengthening agro-ecological model in Mexico, citing Cuba's success, praises Yucatan's declaration of GE-free zone

News release: Mexico's Center of Biological Investigations of the Northwest (CIBNOR) announces development of portable kit to detect 97 percent of genes used to modify crops, Dr. Gracia Alicia Gómez Anduro noted that while GMOs are safe, the kit will provide organic producers with certainty about their crops

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 NGO statements about Ghana's ongoing controversy over the appointment of an agricultural minister. In New Zealand, GE-free regions launched a social media campaign asking for support. Reuters reported on a Mexican court's decision to delay its ruling on GM maize.

Consolidated highlights include:

- In Ghana, the new administration's ministerial appointments continued to generate commentary on agriculture issues. In a statement, the Peasant Farmer Association of Ghana (PFAG) announced that it supported the minister-designate for agriculture, Owusu Afreyie Akoto, in his calls for more investment in the country's agricultural development. However, it added that Akoto was misleading in his statements on the Plant Breeder's Bill and criticized his rejection of Food Sovereignty Ghana's expertise. Food Sovereignty Ghana also issued a statement claiming that the committee reviewing the appointment ignored its objections. **See more**.
- New Zealand regions that have declared themselves "GM free" have launched a new social media and video campaign seeking support for regional bans on GM crop cultivation. Government and community leaders from Hastings, the Far North, Whangarei and Auckland have issued a series of videos highlighting the economic benefits of being able to market their exports as GM-free. **See more**.
- Reuters reported on the implications of last week's Mexican Collegiate Court decision in which a judge decided not to rule on the temporary suspension of GM maize cultivation permits. The news service quoted a Monsanto executive who said she expects the legal process to continue for "years." **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: Philadelphia Inquirer reports two former U.S. secretaries of agriculture are framing nationalistic pro-merger arguments for Dow-DuPont deal, explaining it would create a US-based giant that could compete with Bayer, Syngenta foreign takeovers

News: Chemical & Engineering News reports on Dow and DuPont's confirmation that planned merger will likely not close until the second quarter, due to prolonged negotiations with EU officials, DuPont CEO Edward Breen noted they will not reduce scientists working to develop new products

Commentary: Bloomberg columnist reports new research identifying way to improve taste of tomato may change public opinion of GMOs; University of Florida biologists says he could make the best tomatoes if public didn't resist GE technology

More North America items

Africa

News: Agrow reports International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications highlights Oklahoma State University study showing Burkina Faso GM cotton adoption has cut pesticide usage by two-thirds

News: Bloomberg reports on Ghana's goal of creating 1.5 million jobs over next two years with increased agriculture investment, Ag Minister Owusu Afriyie Akoto noted government will provide farmers with better seed, fertilizers and training, and will allow use of non-gmo varieties developed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

News release: Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) praises Ag Minister Owusu Afreyie Akoto for not using his personal opinion on GMOs to promote their introduction in Ghana, but criticizes him for misinforming the public about true purpose of the Plant Breeders Bill, claiming it benefits foreign corporations

News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana criticizes Parliamentary Appointments Committee for neglecting basis of its specific objections to nomination of Owusu Afriyie Akoto as Ag Minister, re-emphasizes position that there is no scientific consensus on GMO safety, and objections to Plant Breeders Bill

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports Nigerian government denies rumors it imported and flooded market with GM rice; biosafety director Rufus Ebegba says the government has banned the import of GM rice, and none is available commercially anywhere in the world

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: IFPRI blogger summarizes NGO research initiative to develop Nepal strategy to adopt high-quality seeds, citing yield benefits; recommends private sector involvement, mechanisms to strengthen the country's private seed companies

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (KRKP) National Coordinator Said Abdullah's call on government for support of farmers' seed sovereignty, noting that increasing reliance on imports threatens to introduce new diseases, and highlighting importance of domestic seed production

News: Pakistani news outlet reports ban on cotton sowing before mid April after early planting designed to reduce costs resulting in more pesticide sprayings against pink bollworm, Bt crops became easy hosts to the pest

News: Pakistani news agency reports on unpredictability in growth and performance of ag sector due to climate change, according to Regional Standing Committee on Horticulture Exports chairman Ahmad Jawad, who noted 40 percent of total ag production was wasted in post-harvest due to insufficient utilisation of biotech

News: Times of India reports on Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) approval of three domestically produced Bt cotton seed varieties by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), with more approvals expected soon, farmers can reuse seeds in subsequent seasons, unlike with Monsanto's varieties

Commentary: Former Chief Technical Advisor of WMO/UN, S Jeevananda Reddy, criticizes Green Revolution technology, claiming it has increased pollution while serving Western multinationals over the Indian public, calls for new Green Revolution to focus on organic production methods

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Serbian news blogger says WTO GMO prerequisites may prompt Serbia to allow import, sales of GM foods

News release: Greenpeace Italy criticizes Italian vote in favor of GM maize authorizations at the EU level

as "pure hypocrisy," as GM crop cultivation is currently banned in Italy, Greenpeace's Federica Ferrario called on EU to reject GMOs and shift towards ecological agriculture

News: U.K. farming news outlet reports on Defra's support of GM maize authorizations in recent vote, suggesting possibility of UK GM crop cultivation post-Brexit, Agricultural Biotechnology Council chairman noted that the maize varieties are not relevant to the UK, but UK's pro-science stance is reassuring

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Food First founder says Monsanto and Bayer were 'waiting in the wings' for the new Administration's approval of Bayer's takeover; note mergers involving Syngenta, DuPont, Dow and ChemChina likely to follow

News: Reuters reports Monsanto executive expects Mexico's GM corn ban to continue for years as slow-moving legal battle continues; adding Trump position on NAFTA may force country to source corn from non-US countries

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports regional councils from GM-free territories launch social media, video campaign aimed to persuade Maori Party to reject government effort to remove power of local bodies to declare free of GMOs

News: New Zealand Herald reports on anti-GMO social media video campaign seeking Maori Party support against proposed changes to Resource Management Act that would prevent local councils from restricting GMOs, Environment Minister Nick Smith noted importance of marketing New Zealand's food via science-based claims

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 30, 2017
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:03:19 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A new campaign by the American Chemistry Council has brought added attention to ongoing efforts to challenge the methodology and conclusions of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in its monographs on glyphosate, 2, 4-D, red meat and various other substances. In addition to the ACC campaign, this week's newsletter includes unrelated articles on the flaws in IARC's work.

Other pieces examine the challenges of communicating accurate scientific findings on food and agriculture issues in an era of fake news, alternative facts and truthiness. Developments on several regulatory issues and litigation can be found in the What's Trending section while this week's Stakeholder Spotlight focuses on an effort in Maryland to curb antibiotic usage in animal agriculture.

Please contact us if you have any questions. The full text of the articles below can be viewed by logging in to the Bonus Eventus Community site. First-time users will need to fill out the Request Membership form on the front page. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Maryland Campaign to Keep Antibiotics Working

Healthcare, public health, environmental, consumer and animal welfare organizations making up the Maryland Campaign to Keep Antibiotics Working coalition ramped up their advocacy in support of a bill that aims to ban antibiotic use for disease prevention in animals.

The Keep Antibiotics

Stories Worth Sharing

Joseph Perrone: Activism, inaccurate scientific reporting taking toll on public policy for GM foods, glyphosate

Reuters: American Chemistry Council campaign seeks reform of IARC, deeming it "responsible for countless misleading headlines"

Julie Kelly: Congress should investigate IARC after scientists accuse it of causing "unnecessary health scares"

Healthy Directions chief science officer: "Total loss of credibility" for IARC by putting red meat in class with plutonium, tobacco, asbestos

Walter Sandow Alhassan: Activist group Food Sovereignty Ghana spreading "misinformation" on GMOs, which have been endorsed as safe by WHO and Nobel laureates

Wayne Parrot and Val Giddings: Food companies should step forward and defend GMOs, resist activist propaganda

Washington Examiner: Greenpeace has "damning scientific record," as shown by Nobel laureates' opposition to anti-GMO activism

Graeme Taylor: Communicating real science on pesticides more challenging as social media replaces conventional media

Oklahoma State University study: Bt cotton reduced pesticide use and

Effective Act of 2017 was introduced last week in the Maryland Senate, with a hearing set for Feb. 14. A similar bill introduced in the 2015 session died in committee.

The NGO is supported by large national organizations Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Public Interest Research Group and Sierra Club. Its members include Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility and Maryland Environmental Health Network, as well as Fair Farms Maryland, whose "partnerships" include Organic Consumers Association, Friends of the Earth, Food Water Watch and Humane Society of the United States. Fair Farms Maryland recently unveiled a "Jermie Superbug" cartoon villain to attract attention to the effort.

LEARN MORE about Maryland Campaign to Keep Antibiotics Working advocacy.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

labor costs, improved yields in Burkina Faso

Alex Berezow: Whole Foods ignores actual food safety issues to focus on "alternative fact" that non-GMO food is tastier and healthier

U.K. researcher: GM crops could help solve food security problem by boosting growing efficiency and nutrition

Science 2.0: Journals becoming lax with peer-review guidelines, notes example of Tyrone Hayes choosing friend to look over atrazine research

Alison Van Eenenaam: U.S. FDA guidance on gene-edited animals is "nonsensical"

Washington Post: Non-browning Arctic apple could sway public opinion on genetically modified foods

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Union vote on GM maize authorizations fails to reach qualified majority

Center for Food Safety, other NGOs file lawsuit challenging U.S. EPA approval of XtendiMax dicamba products

Iowa Supreme Court rules Des Moines Water Works cannot collect damages from agriculture drainage districts

Youth Senate demands Kenyan government lift GM ban within 30 days

Canada's PMRA provides new timeline for release of neonic pollinator risk assessments, now due out in December

Calendar highlights

January 31	February 2	February 3
Dave Goulson "Saving Our Bumblebees" lecture at U.K.'s University of Dundee	Food Tank Food Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.	Minnesota Environmental Congress featuring discussions of pollinator health, governor's "Year of Water Action"

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 27-29, 2017
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:27:15 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 European Union member states voting to reject GM maize varieties, although the vote fell short of a qualified majority to defeat the issue. A Mexican civil court postponed a decision on GM maize cultivation after Monsanto requested the case go before Mexico's Supreme Court.

Consolidated highlights include:

- EU member states voted against authorizing three GM maize varieties for cultivation. However, the vote fell short of a qualified majority, leaving the final decision with the European Commission. Anti-biotech NGOs such as Friends of the Earth said the commission should take its cue from the member states and oppose the GM maize authorization. Italian media criticized Italy for voting to approve the GM traits despite the fact that they are banned in the country. **See more**.
- Mexican news sites reported a civil court suspended an expected decision on GM maize cultivation after Monsanto filed a brief to request the matter go before the Supreme Court. An attorney for Demanda Colectiva Maiz, a group of NGO plaintiffs in the case, said Monsanto had lied to the court and now pressured the judges. The NGO group said it would host a news conference Tuesday at which it would announce "new actions" to keep the area GMO-free. **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: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines potential of Arctic apple to open door to other GM fruits and vegetables, highlighting its ability to reduce waste, notes anti-GMO activists efforts to intimidate fast food companies against using GM potatoes and apples will only perpetuate cycle of food

Commentary: Forbes' Senapathy writes to "watch out" for buzzword food marketing on issues like organic, non-GMO, natural, cage-free, etc. which incentivize food marketers to imply false food quality and health claims

News: Daily Wire reporter calls Greenpeace good at stunts that inconvenience or endanger others and accomplish nothing, but group takes anti-science, "alternative fact" stance on GMOs, delaying or banning products that help people

Commentary: Gizmodo commentary says scientists must get involved in politics to counter anti-science policies such as GMO labeling, denying climate change

News release: Referencing a study published in the journal Science, University of Florida promotes professor Harry Klee's team that identifyied the chemical combinations for better tomato flavor

Commentary: Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America describes experience of attending Monsanto

shareholder meeting where she made wide-ranging health and environmental accusations against glyphosate, dicamba, GMO crops, says meeting was "infuriating" because of unfounded confidence Monsanto has in safety of its products

Commentary: Farm Journal editor posts 'Top 10 Megatrends' that will shape ag industry; says producers should watch GM labeling strategy, ag specialization, and growing environmental regulations

More North America items

Africa

News: South African newspaper reports massive invasion of fall armyworms expected; Crop Life South Africa seeking emergency registration of pesticides not registered for corn armyworms, notes armyworms resistant to pyrethroids

News release: Grain SA reacts to government issuance of US GMO maize import permits, noting imports do not promote local producers' competitiveness if the same GM events are not available to them, believes such exceptions should be made only when food security is at risk

More Africa items

Asia

News: Iranian English language news site reports agricultural minister objects to Iranian Parliament's GMO ban, notes no harm to health, benefits of GM crops, says objections are economically motivated

Interview: The Times of India reports scientist MS Swaminathan says scientists must communicate their work more, help India overcome malnutrition

News: Indian business newspaper reports some blame slowness of agriculture ministry to rein in indiscriminate pesticide, herbicide use for cancer cases in state of Punjab

Report: Report in Acta Horticulturae examines challenges in conducting transgenic research and development in the Philippines, author notes key issues are access to technology and/or lack of know-how, funding constraints, strict regulation, and acceptance and activism, recommends dissemination of science-based information

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Swiss news site criticizes media for not reporting on NYT article reports on claims by former Agroscope researcher Amy Hilbeck that GM research is "corrupted," urges Swiss to investigate undue industry influence over public research

News release: EU Green Party argues lack of support from member states in vote on authorization of GM maize varieties means Commission should withdraw its proposals, criticizes member states with GMO bans who abstained or voted in favor of authorization, such as German and Italy, respectively

News: French news site reports anti-GMO activist accused of participating in destroying GM oilseed rape crops in November, group demands public trial

News: UK's Financial Times reports Trump-May trade talk likely to include GM food acceptance, ; the meeting strains both nations' trade relations with EU

News: Citing new Science study, associate editor at The Verge says breeders have identified tomato taste genes, quotes University of Minnesota breeder who says local markets likely to benefit before long-distance commercial growers

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Union of Scientists Committed to Society member writes for Mexican news outlet, believes court should maintain suspension of GM corn permits, links GMOs to several health disorders and negative environmental impacts, claims GM crops have failed to boost yields and reduce pesticide use

Announcement: Contributor to Mexico-based CIMMYT notes its scientists, and those from UK-based Rothamsted Research, have agreed to pool expertise to develop disease-resistant and more nutritious wheat

News: Bloomberg reports on Chile's double standard on GM crops, noting it is a large producer of GM seeds for export, but prohibits domestic farmers from cultivating them, highlights farmers' frustrations in face of worsening drought, Monsanto in partnership with ChileBio seeks to persuade Chileans that GMOs are safe

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand-based Pure Hawke's Bay notes local GM Free growing regions are calling on the Maori Party to stop the government from removing local powers that protect their GM Free growing status

News release: New Zealand NGO Pure Hawkes Bay launches social media video campaign against Clause 360D of the Resource Management Act bill, which would prevent regional councils from restricting GMOs, the group calls on Maori Party for support, emphasizing economic advantage of GE-free status

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on owner of snack food company Kiwi Garden, Taine Randell's social media campaign calling on Maori Party to oppose government's proposed restriction of regional GMO bans, noting overseas customers do not want GMO foods, and that the move would harm competitive advantage

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 on European Union member states preparing for Friday's vote on three GM maize varieties. A White House order sent all U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and Food and Drug Administration rules back to the agencies -- including GM labeling proposals.

Consolidated highlights include:

- NGOs, government officials, and media commented and reported on the expected vote Friday (Jan. 27) by EU member states on whether three GM maize varieties can be cultivated. Politico reported Portugal and France plan to vote against the measure, and Greenpeace noted Luxembourg also would oppose it. Germany's Environmental Minister Barbara Hendricks and the German Union for Environment and Nature Conservation also called on member states to reject the GM maize. **See more**.
- Politico reported an order sending rules and proposals back to agencies will delay the USDA's pre-rule proposal to establish a national disclosure standard. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Reason Magazine science correspondent Ronald Bailey says FDA draft guidance on regulating GM livestock, issued two days before end of the Obama administration, is 'rife with scientific nonsense'

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health criticizes Whole Foods for spreading idea that organic, non-GMO food is healthier and tastier than conventional food, while they ignore real food safety issues, pointing to recent Listeria incident in three regional Whole Foods kitchens

News release: The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, with grant funding from the Gates Foundation, expands multi-institutional research program to optimize breeding of African sorghum

News: Capital Press reports policy director for Oregonians for Food and Shelter says in-state producers should watch for 'localized efforts' to restrict GM crops and pesticide use at the county and city level

Commentary: CropLife Media Group field editor describes Trump's decision to withdraw from the TPP as puzzling, says it just dealt domestic agriculture interests a 'tremendous blow'

Video: Hawaii Center for Food Safety video features Science Policy Analyst Bill Freese, who claims biotech company operations involving GM crops on the islands serve to increase pesticide use and create pesticide dependence, linking pesticides to several health disorders

More North America items

Africa

News: iBlackVoices reports on Food Sovereignty Ghana Communications Director Edwin Kweku Andoh Baffour's clarification that the group opposes the Plant Breeders Bill only in its current state, objecting to potential to open up Ghanaian seeds to monopolization by multinationals, following criticism of Ag Minister nominee

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Ag Minister nominee Owusu Afriyie Akoto's promotion of "Planting for Food and Jobs" program before Parliament's Appointments Committee, noting his support of the Plant Breeders Bill is not to promote GMOs, but to provide support to Ghanaian-made improved seeds

More Africa items

Asia

Announcement: International Food Policy Research Institute announces success of zinc fortified rice program for Bangladesh, with three varieties developed by HarvestPlus in partnership with EU Commission, IFPRI-led CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)

News: Indian news outlet reports on Quality Control Laboratory's (QCL) discovery of misbranded pesticide product, instructing farmers not to use it to avoid crop damage, Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir's enforcement wing conducted various raids and seized 10097 Kilograms of Dithane M-45 manufactured by Saraswati Agrochemicals

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Spanish news outlet contributor warns about negative health and environmental impacts of GMOs and pesticides, noting Spain is the only EU country that grows GM crops on a large scale, believes GMOs, glyphosate and other pesticides should eventually be eliminated, calls on health authorities to put citizens first

Commentary: German anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech announces launch of "Set limits to biotech" project, to provide critical analysis and present political demands regarding biotech, will start by opposing Intrexon products

News: German news outlet reports on recent interview with Monsanto's Robb Fraley at St. Louis headquarters, highlights his belief that feeding the world's growing population will not be possible without GMOs, and that Monsanto's pending merger with Bayer will help improve research and innovation

News release: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences reports researchers claim organic food offers health benefits due to higher nutrients, restrictive use of pesticide, antibiotics compared to conventional, GMO food; some experts say low levels of difference in nutrients, other chemicals unlikely to result in health difference

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian NGO warns about increased political power due to agribusiness mergers and impact on peasant agriculture and agroecology, says 'it is our duty to press and make these mergers difficult'

News: Mexican news site reports on protests by peasant groups asking Yucatan state's governor to resist federal government efforts to allow GM corn in country

News: Dominican Republic news site reports agencies present 10 varieties of biofortified beans, includes

those produced with GM, conventional breeding

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: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 25, 2017
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 9:03:14 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 ongoing controversy over the appointment of Ghana's new agriculture minister. Local news outlets also highlighted concerns over Kenya's policy on GM crops. In the U.S., media outlets continued to respond to recent Trump administration decisions on trade and agriculture.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Food Sovereignty Ghana continued to protest over the recent nomination of Owusu Afriyie Akoto to be the country's minister of agriculture. In an interview on Pulse Ghana, the NGO's director said that Afriyie Akoto appeared to misunderstand the difference between GM crops and hybrids. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology criticized the activist group's misleading claims on GM crop health and safety. Afriyie Akoto spoke before the appointments committee today; additional media coverage of his remarks are likely. **See more**.
- In Kenya, university students reiterated their criticism of the federal government's delay in adopting more friendly regulations towards GM crop imports and cultivation. The "Youth Senate" called on the environment ministry to approve GM crop field trials within the month, or else the group would mobilize current and former biotechnology students to seek compensation for their "wasted" education. Also in Kenya, the government announced today that it would implement a GMO labeling scheme in anticipation of the GM crop ban's repeal. **See more**.
- U.S. media outlets continued to analyze recent Trump administration decisions on agricultural policy, including an announced -- and revoked -- gag order on public communications from U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists. The Washington Post reported that the initial order had not been approved by the ranking agency leader and that, in a follow-up news conference with reporters, he clarified that the measure should only apply to policy statements. **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: Wayne Parrot of University of Georgia and Val Giddings of Information Technology and Innovation Foundation write for Forbes, criticize op-ed claiming GMOs had a good 2016; point to several anti-biotech measures over the year and call on biotech and food industries to defend themselves

Commentary: Joseph Perrone of Center for Accountability in Science writes for National Review, examining continued fear-based campaigns against GMOs and glyphosate, in spite of scientific consensus that both are safe, believes pervasiveness of inaccurate science reporting has taken a toll on the public and on policy

News: The Washington Post reports USDA 'scrambles' to clarify memo ordering employees not to communicate with public; notes updated guidance only intended to apply to press releases and policy statements

Announcement: Cargill posts update on its GMO policies, says science is clear on GMO safety and

environmental benefits; adds that Cargill sources both GM and non-GM ingredients, opposes zero tolerance policies

Campaign: OCA asks local readers to attend Oregon Town Hall and to urge state Reps Duane Stark and Sal Esquivel to support a bill that would 'once again' allow counties to regulate GM crops

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian TV news site reports scientists say GM rice will help nation meet its own needs, negating need to import rice; "agriculture watchers" worry about GMO safety

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Food Sovereignty Ghana communications director Edwin Kweku Andoh Baffour's response to Ag Minister-designate Afriyie-Akoto's statement that he does not support introduction of GMOs, says Members of Parliament do not understand the difference between GMOs and hybrids

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ag Minister nominee Owusu Afriyie Akoto's dismissal of claims that he seeks to introduce GMOs into the country; he told parliament's Appointments Committee that his goal is to provide farmers with improved seeds, fertilizers and extension to boost production

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ag Minister nominee Owusu Afriyie Akoto's dismissal of Food Sovereignty Ghana's claims that he is promoting use of GM seeds in the country, noting his goal is to promote Ghanaian scientists and to provide farmers with access to improved seeds and fertilizers

Commentary: Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (Ghana Chapter) member, Walter Sandow Alhassan writes for Ghanaian news outlet, criticizing Food Sovereignty Ghana's arguments opposing appointment of Owusu Afriyie Akoto as Ag Minister, pointing out flaws in their claims on GMOs

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on government's launch of GMO label for products on sale, in spite of current import ban and lack of commercialization of any GM crops on the market; National Biosafety Authority CEO Willy Tonui noted the label is to prepare for eventual lifting of the ban and future commercialization

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on "Youth Senate" group's ultimatum calling on government to lift GMO ban within 30 days, threatening to mobilize biotech students to seek compensation for "wasted time," and calling on government to order National Environment Management Authority to allow field trial permits

News: Kenyan news outlet reports an activist who questioned National Environment Management Authority's (NEMA) decision to block Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) permit for GM maize research, noting several university biotech students' careers and livelihoods are at stake

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news site reports officials believe using GM maize will help farmers increase yields

News release: Mauritius announces plans to discuss a National Biotechnology Institute; Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security says biotech is a source of innovation that could contribute to nation's economy

More Asia items

Europe

News: Sputnik reports GMO apples to make US debut in February in a pilot program in ten grocery stores in the Midwest; notes 'concerns and theories abound over genetically-modified crops'

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports court will decide on an ampora allowing GM maize cultivation, notes main trial still pending; AgroBIO Mexico notes country still imports significant amounts if maize

News: Mexican news site reports civil court will decide on whether or not keep suspension of GM maize cultivation on Thursday

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 24, 2017
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9 03:40 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement that a Mexican court plans to rule on the country's GM maize moratorium this Thursday. Regional news outlets reported that the European Union Trade Committee voted to approve the controversial EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). In the U.S., local news outlets reported on a recent FDA announcement proposing new regulations for GE animals.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Demanda Colectiva Maiz announced that a Collegiate Court in Mexico was scheduled to rule on the country's GM maize moratorium this Thursday (Jan. 26). The moratorium, implemented during amparo lawsuits filed by NGOs, has been in place since September 2013. La Jornada and Arpo both amplified the statement, quoting litigators associated with the lawsuits who claimed that GM maize could cross-pollinate with native maize varieties. **See more**.
- European news sites reported that MEPs with the Trade Committee voted to approve a free-trade agreement between the EU and Canada. A Portuguese news site reported that the deal could open up the EU market to Canada's GM animal feed and hormone-treated beef products. **See more**.
- U.S. news outlets amplified a Food and Drug Administration statement from earlier in the month, requesting input for its proposed rules on regulating GE animals. Science and technology news outlets quoted a University of California-Davis researcher who warned that the new regulations would negatively impact academic research. Technology media outlet Gizmodo cited those reports and criticized the FDA's proposal, calling the new rules "nonsense." **See more**.
- The Washington Post reported on plans to commercialize genetically modified Arctic Apples, with the initial distribution planned for some Midwestern stores. The article was amplified on National Public Radio and in supportive commentary from the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Washington Post blogger predicts Arctic Apple could change public's mind about GM foods since enhancement offers consumer convenience benefit instead of crop yields

Interview: National Public Radio program Here & Now interviews Washington Post reporter about Arctic Apple commercialization

Commentary: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation senior fellow amplifies Washington Post article on commercialization of Arctic Apple, says controversy is made up by organic groups to protect their market share from new, consumer-friendly crops

News: Smithsonian reports first non-browning GMO apples slated to hit US shelves in February; notes new Arctic apples take weeks to turn brown; questions if the modified fruit can 'take a bite out of food

waste'

Commentary: Gizmodo contributor criticizes FDA's proposal to regulate GE animals as animal drugs; echoes UC Davis animal geneticist Alison van Eenennaam's concern that such regulations will make the process more costly, preventing farmers from accessing beneficial new technologies

News: Wired reports on scientists' concerns regarding FDA decision to regulate GE animals as animal drugs, Fyodor Urnov of Altius Institute for Biomedical Sciences in Seattle questioned FDA's logic, noting de-horned cattle could occur in nature, but that gene editing just accelerates the process

News: Molecular research news site reports USDA is considering tighter rules regarding gene-edited animals, UC Davis' van Eenennam say move creates burden on academics, limits GE research to multinationals

News: BuzzFeed reports USDA scientists have been ordered to stop all science communications, including social media engagement; notes the rule also applies to communications with Congress

Campaign: Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM launches campaign on Metro grocery chain, seeking clear stance on GE salmon, calls on supporters to call Metro or visit their local branches

Commentary: Activist Jonathan Latham criticizes recent article by organic movement leaders in which they called GMO labeling "parochial," argues it is wrong to qualify significance of GMO labeling in any way, claims GMOs are responsible for ecosystem damage, as well as kidney and liver dysfunction

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news site reports on Lamongan regional farming conference, quotes local administrator who says region could be a pilot project for commercial release of biotechnology-developed varieties

News: Wall Street Journal reports on China's increased food imports from Russia, head of Russia's Far East Investment and Export Agency, Petr Shelakhaev, noted China sees Russian food as safe, following alleged health problems caused by GM foods

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Writing in The Conversation, University of Westminster lecturer says new research areas in GM crops could improve growing efficiency and nutrition; calls technology "powerful" food security tool

News: Portuguese news outlet reports on EU Parliamentary Committee on International Trade's approval of CETA, CETA will allow for Canadian exports of GMOs and hormone-treated beef, opponents criticize lack of transparency and argue that it will benefit multinationals over citizens

Campaign: Corporate Observatory Europe launches manifesto opposing TTIP, CETA, claiming deals will increase imports of cheaper ag products into EU

News release: FAO announces Canada's decision to contribute an additional $1 million towards scientific and technical work of Codex Alimentarius, International Plant Protection Convention, and World Organisation for Animal Health

Commentary: Anti-biotech site Keine Gentechnik amplifies German Green party statement asking the Budestag to vote against GM maize cultivation, criticizes possibility of EU approval for new GM maize varieties

News: German news outlet reports on recent protest in Berlin against industrial farming, GMOs and impact of big agribusiness attended by 18,000 people, Roderich Zauscher of Dachauer Bund Nature Conservation was pleased at how well they were represented and at the peaceful nature of the protest

News: Italian news outlet reports on recent biotech conference organized by Chamber to the Luca Coscioni Association, in which treasurer Marco Cappato promoted gene editing as a way to overcome anti-GMO ideologies and revive competitiveness of Italian agriculture

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Demanda Coletiva Maiz reports that, on Thursday Jan. 26, a Circuit Collegiate Court will decide on Mexico's three-year-old moratorium on GM corn; group notes transgenic pollen threatens landrace maize varieties

News: Mexican news agency Apro reports on upcoming court decision on challenges to GM maize suspension brought by ag industy giants, including Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta, opponents of GM maize argue that it contaminates native varieties

News: La Jornada San Luis reports on upcoming First Collegiate Court in Civil Matters decision on challenge filed by Monsanto and other corporations against suspension of GM maize cultivation, industry argues the courts are not authorized to suspend planting permits, and that the citizen class action is unfounded

News: Mexican news outlet reports on first Civil Collegiate Court of the First Circuit's upcoming decision on whether or not to allow cultivation of GM maize, expected this Thursday, members of Colectividad del Maíz reemphasized their reasons for opposing GM maize, noting they have been released without legal authorization

News: Mexican news outlet reports on First Collegiate Court in Civil Matters of the First Circuit's announcement that it will issue its resolution on transgenic maize cultivation on Thursday, 90 permits are currently being detained by the court's suspension three years ago

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Yucatan's plans to argue case in support of maintaining GE-free status before Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, and has turned to Greenpeace and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (CEMDA) for its defense

News: Oaxacan news outlet reports on second International Poster Biennial, organized by Institute of Graphic Arts of Oaxaca (IAGO), Union of Scientists Engaged with the Society (UCCS), Pro-Oax and the artist Francisco Toledo, UCCS member Emmanuel González Ortega explained importance of creating awareness of GM maize contamination

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports local research team discovers GE cow's offspring shows phenotype was passed to next generation, appear to have potential to produce genetically altered, hypo-allergenic, high-protein milk

More Oceania items

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Stakeholder Events Bonus Eventus

database	calendar	community
More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.	See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.	Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 23, 2017
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017 9 03:14 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 U.S. commentary on the implications of the new administration's policies in agriculture. In Europe, German political groups issued statements late last week criticizing proposed changes to the country's law on genetic engineering. Controversy also continued surrounding the choice of Ghana's new agricultural minister.

Consolidated highlights include:

- In the U.S., food activists criticized President Donald Trump's selection of Sonny Perdue for head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Civil Eats summarized activist reactions, which highlighted Perdue's ties to the fertilizer industry and his mixed record on environmental protections. Center for Food Safety, in a response to both the USDA and Environmental Protection Agency appointments, said that it would remain vigilant in its protection of human and environmental safety. Late in the day, agricultural groups criticized Trump's decision to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. **See more**.
- German political groups responded late last week to proposed changes to the country's genetic engineering law. The German Green party and the SPD said that the new changes were too complicated and would make it difficult to enforce GM crop cultivation bans. **See more**.
- Ghanaian farmers told a local media outlet that they supported the appointment of Owusu Afriyie Akoto as Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture. The Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen (GNAFF) pushed back against anti-biotechnology group Food Sovereignty Ghana, questioning the advocacy group's understanding of farming and farmers' needs. **See more**.

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North America

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow promotes success, further adoption of Bt brinjal in Bangladesh in profile of local farmer who learned that the crop requires no pesticide, has no adverse impact on human health, environment

News release: Center for Food Safety voices on concern of USDA and EPA nominees Perdue and Pruitt, claiming their records of serving interests of agribusiness and pharma-chemical companies will conflict with obligation to serve public good

News: Civil Eats gets reaction from food policy experts to Trump's nomination of Sonny Perdue to be secretary of agriculture; Andy Kimbrell, executive director of Center for Food Safety, points out Perdue signed law as governor of Georgia that barred CAFO regulations, opposed GMO labeling

News release: U.S. Sens. Wyden and Merkley letter to federal officials expresses concerns about deregulation of GM grass they say threatens Oregon's agriculture, recreation, grass seed industry

News: Hawaiian news source reports Kauai County Council expected to pass Bill No. 2643 seeking to

repeal GMO bill at Jan. 25 meeting; Councilwoman JoAnn Yukimura says issues are not dead, public concern still high about GMOs, pesticides

News: Food Navigator reports FDA, USDA push to update on GMO regulation before presidential power shift is in question now that Trump administration has vowed to undo much of Obama administration's policies

Commentary: Community Alliance for Global Justice contributor criticizes World Bank's new Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) indicators for African agriculture, argues that privatization and patenting of seeds makes it more difficult for smallholder farmers to access the technology

More North America items

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen's (GNAFF) support of Ag Minister-designate Owusu Afriyie Akoto, in spite of opposition from Food Sovereignty Ghana (FSG), GNAFF Vice President John Awuku Dziwornu questioned FSG's understaning of GMOs, noting they are not farmers

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow promotes success, further adoption of Bt brinjal in Bangladesh in profile of local farmer who learned that the crop requires no pesticide, has no adverse impact on human health, environment

Letter to the editor: Pakistani news source prints letter arguing agriculture needs to be strengthened nationally, biotechnology is underutilized, is solution to build up sector

News: Bangladeshi news source reports Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetable and Allied Products Exporters' Association warns GM potatoes could cause export setback if production is approved, noting many countries do not allow import of GM foods

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes for Global Research against development of GM mustard in India, claims push for GMOs may lead to food with lower nutrients, increased use of agrochemicals, and worsening soil and environmental health, believes it will only benefit wealthy corporations

More Asia items

Europe

News release: German Bundstag announces recent hearing in Parliament's Committee on Food and Agriculture on proposed draft amendment to Genetic Engineering Act, experts criticized the draft for being too complicated, noting it would be difficult to enforce GM crop bans and could limit innovation

News: German news outlet reports on Green party spokesman Harald Ebner's call for strict regulation and labeling of products of CRISPR, citing possible unexpected consequences, while German Federation of Plant Breeders chair Stephanie Franck noted CRISPR is extremely precise, rejecting call for labeling

News: European Biotechnology magazine reports EU Commission selects two biotech CEOs to advise EU on breakthrough innovations

News: French news outlet reports on activists with Vigilance OGM's operation at a Saint-Maur Jardiland shop, where they filled baskets with seeds to draw attention to sale of "hidden GMOs," produced via mutagenesis

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports producers are waiting for National Technical Biosafety Commission to release three new GMO cotton varieties by Bayer, Dow, Monsanto in 2017

More Latin America items

Oceania

Announcement: Western Australia NGO FOODwatch announces its delivery of petition to WA Government calling for protections for farmers from economic losses caused by GM contamination, claiming coexistence between GM and non-GM crops is not possible

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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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 23, 2017
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017 4:05:15 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's newsletter begins with a must-read article from David Zaruk's "The Risk-Monger" blog that exposes conflicts of interest behind the creation of the European Food Safety Authority's bee risk guidance document that would make it nearly impossible to prove pesticides pose no risk to bees. The piece offers comparisons to the International Agency for Research on Cancer's classification of glyphosate as a possible carcinogen and goes on to describe how Europe's honeybee population is not even declining, how farmers are spending more time and money using products less effective than neonics and how the lack of access to neonics has cost European oilseed rape farmers nearly 1 billion euros annually.

Other articles of note include an update on biotech crop development in Nigeria, a response to Environmental Working Group's annual "Dirty Dozen" list and a warning on how Donald Trump's election has energized fund-raising by environmental NGOs.

As always, please contact us with any questions. The full text of the articles below can be viewed by logging in to the Bonus Eventus Community site. First-time users will need to fill out the Request Membership form on the front page. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

In This Issue

Stakeholder Spotlight
Stories Worth Sharing
What's Trending?
Calendar highlights

Stakeholder Spotlight: Food Tank

NGO and consultancy Food Tank recently announced its annual Washington, D.C., conference with speakers including Andrew Kimbrell from the Center for Food Safety. The Feb. 2 Food Policy Summit is one of four major events planned this year by the NGO - with others in Boston in April, Sao Paulo

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk exposes conflicts of interest, activism behind creation of EFSA's "unworkable" bee risk guidance document

Bad Science Debunked: If "Health Ranger" Mike Adams is so against GMOs, why does he sell so many in Natural News Store?

Sri Lanka ag research scientist questions whether there is any proof linking glyphosate to chronic kidney disease

Kavin Senapathy: Girl Scouts should avoid "non-GMO" fluff, stand by scientific consensus on biotechnology

Paul Driessen: Listing of bees as endangered an unjustified power grab by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Obama's last days as president

Henry Miller and Drew Kershen: International Seed Treaty "runs counter to science, agricultural development, and intellectual property rights"

Capital Press: Environmental NGOs report surge in donations following Trump election, with litigation a key tactic on farming issues

Ohio State University professor: Genetic engineering helps

in August and Los Angeles in October.

Food Tank's advisory board includes organic industry consultant Charles Benbrook and Food & Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter.

The NGO notes corporate sponsors include Chipotle, Annie's Organic and Organic Valley while it also receives validation from "partnerships" with major international food and agriculture development organizations.

LEARN MORE about Food Tank advocacy.

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environment by reducing pesticide usage, boosting water quality and soil health

Washington Post: Diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweighs the risks of pesticides; dietitian says foods on "Dirty Dozen" list are safe

Alliance for Science fellow promotes Nigeria's biotech prospects, including hope to commercialize Bt cowpea and Bt cotton in 2018

Cracked: Despite listing of a few species as endangered, America's bee population is rising

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What's Trending?

U.S. Food and Drug Administration seeks comments on draft regulations for gene-edited foods, animals

Seralini research claiming glyphosate causes fatty liver disease promoted by NGOs, activist media - Monsanto response

NGO creates "Jermie Superbug" character in push for Maryland legislation to curb antibiotic use in livestock

French court throws out beekeepers' lawsuit against Bayer, finds no causal link between bee deaths and Gaucho pesticide

Calendar highlights

January 23-24	January 24	January 24
EU Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting	Center for Food Safety "Biotech Myths Busted" webinar	PBS airs documentary on "Silent Spring" author Rachel Carson
January 25	**January 27**	**January 31**
Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria	Guelph Organic Forum featuring Jonathan Latham keynote on "What is the future of genetic engineering?"	Dave Goulson "Saving Our Bumblebees" lecture at U.K.'s University of Dundee

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal
Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 20-22, 2017
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017 9 53:33 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included national and international media, academic and NGO commentary on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations governing genetically altered animals. Reporting continued regarding Arctic apples, which will be released in test markets in February.

Consolidated highlights include:

- The FDA's revised biotech regulation proposals generated substantial reaction from industry, media, and activists. Friends of the Earth criticized the proposal, saying loopholes would allow gene-edited products to escape oversight. The University of California-Davis criticized the regulations that treat gene-altered animals as drugs. The American Seed Association and the American Soybean Association reacted favorably to the new rules. **See more**.
- Media, including CNN and The Huffington Post Canada, reported that Arctic apples will be sold in 10 stores in the Midwest beginning in February. Okanagan Specialty Fruits director Neal Carter says the non-browning GM apples will provide cost savings by eliminating anti-oxidation treatment. The apple also will be a the first test of QR labeling, according to Food Dive. **See more**.

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizing Girl Scouts for bowing to anti-GMO pressure in releasing their first verified non-GMO cookie variety, notes it conflicts with the organization's STEM advocacy, and demonizes a safe technology that can improve sustainability and boost food security

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor notes in part 1 of 3-part series that GMOs originating in "labs" are no different than conventional food, notes much DNA already shared by different organisms

News: Capital Press analysis claims environmental NGOs financially benefiting from Trump election; analysts outline anticipated campaign tactics

News: Independent news site reports Oregon senators ask FDA to reconsider GE bentgrass deregulation due to invasiveness of the product, says eradication attempts have failed

News: Restaurant news magazine reports restaurants still reject GMOs despite approval by FDA due to consumer concerns

News: Politico's "Morning Agriculture" column reports Iowan Sam Clovis leading Trump's "beachhead" team at USDA to lay groundwork for new president's agenda; Trump praises his nominee for USDA secretary of agriculture; environmental groups petition USDA, SBA for moratorium on loans to poultry farmers in Arkansas

Commentary: CFS Policy and Program Coordinator recognizes women farmers participating in the

'Women's march on Washington'; highlights Navdanya among participants

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Alliance for Science Ghana's open letter urges Ghana president to support scientific innovation, agricultural biotechnology

News: The Ugandan reports as members of Parliament resume the debate over GMOs, activists tell local MPs 'GM foods will maim and kill Ugandans'

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on National Assembly's Agriculture Committee's support of research for locally produced GMOs to boost food security, committee chairman Adan Mohammed Noor noted they are against lifting the ban on GMO to encourage local production, which will empower farmers and researchers

Commentary: IFPRI Director says Africa's youth employment issue is fundamentally one of 'investment in science'; notes current levels of investment in Africa 'cannot support modernization'

News: Nigerian news outlet examines debate surrounding GM crop adoption, highlighting government promotion of public sensitization efforts, as well as activist opposition, examines calls to promote indigenous biotech activities

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports ICAR professor says India needs GM crops to help meet developing foodgrain crisis, to empower poor farmers, notes Nobel laureates endorse GMOs

Study: Chinese researchers' study finds GM plants impact soil microbial communities, but draw no definite conclusions on whether or not the impact is negative

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Inf'OGM says Trump's agricultural secretary appointee is pro-GMO, received money from Monsanto, BIO named him governor of the year

Commentary: German news outlet contributor examines several useful developments in gene editing, believes public mistrust of old GMOs does not bode well for the new generation, highlights researcher Joachim Schiemann's belief that over-regulation will make it so that only corporations can afford to invest in gene editing

News: Wall Street Journal reports on EU antitrust authorities' concern that Dow-DuPont merger will inhibit innovation competition, Dow states the merger is pro-competition and will provide customers and consumers with greater innovation and choice

Commentary: French General Confederation of Labour says Canadian trade agreement will open up European market to GMOs, ban farm seed production, and increase corporate control of food

News: Belgian news site reports Monsanto notified EU of error in paperwork for Roundup-ready GM soy approval 10 years ago, notes GM soy used for 10 years was not like the one authorized

News: EU Observer reports a proposal to allow member states to ban use of GM ingredients in food will likely remain in "legislative limbo" for several months, as Maltese presidency has not planned any discussion by ag ministers, summarizes debate surrounding the proposal

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports National University of Córdoba researcher says GM soy and pesticides have "terrible impact" on health of those living near fields

News: Mexican news site reports group stages sit-in at Mexican agency for indigenous people, says GM corn affects the land, damages honey production by bees

Event: Mexican news agency reports on Jan. 21 forum on food sovereignty and risks of GM maize in Oaxaca with UNAM official and director of city's botanical gardens

News: Bolivian news site reports using GM corn, soy would increase yields, generate $66 million in income

News: Mexican news site reports peasants protest, request governor to declare Yucatan a GMO-free zone

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: FOODwatch urges voters to tell candidates in upcoming election they want Western Australia to be GMO-free

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Wray-Cahen, Diane - FAS
Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Jan. 19, 2017
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2017 9 02:56 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 reporting and commentary on the U.S. Food & Drug Administration plans to regulate gene editing. A letter from a group of NGOs requested that the World Bank stop funding business interests in agriculture.

Consolidated highlights include:

- *Genome Web* reported the FDA plans to take a "product-specific, science- and risk-based approach" to regulating gene-edited animals, food, and therapeutic products. A *Nature* contributor asserted that many researchers may be disappointed, having hoped for less stringent rules. The article pointed out it's unclear how Donald Trump's administration will proceed with the proposal. **See more**.
- The Oakland Institute released an open letter from NGOs calling on the World Bank to end a project supporting business interests in agriculture because it threatens farmers' access to seeds. **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

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association says corporate interests have overrun government, outlines plan to force companies to reduce use of GM ingredients and force transitions to organic or regenerative ag

Commentary: Mother Jones' Tom Philpott criticizes Donald Trump's likely approval of Bayer-Monsanto merger, following his recent meeting with the companies' execs, dismissing jobs pledge, notes the new entity would control 29 percent of global seed market and 25 percent of global pesticide market

News release: Friends of the Earth blasts President-elect Trump's pick of Sonny Perdue to lead USDA, asserts ag secretary must support farmers in meeting consumer demand for cleaner food grown without "synthetic hormones, routine antibiotics, GMOs or toxic pesticides"

Commentary: Food Integrity Campaign blogger examines potential for CRISPR to revolutionize food and medicine, highlighting current and possible future applications, as well as debate on regulations, believes medical applications may make CRISPR more acceptable to the public

News: In brief report, Politico says USDA has sent pre-rule for federal GM labeling legislation to the Office of Management and Budget; agency seeks public comment on options for implementing the law

More North America items

Africa

News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana strongly objects to nomination of Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto as

Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture, in light of his belief that GMOs are safe, FSG argues that America and Burkina Faso are attempting to shift away from GMOs, and claims safety studies are all industry-funded

More Africa items

Asia

Study: Chinese researchers find potential gene expression changes in wolf spider exposed to Bt rice through consumption of rice pests, call for additional review of the interaction

Campaign: Third World Network email campaign amplifies Jack Heinemann's article highlighting multiomics studies that claim GMOs not equivalent to non-GMOs, urges re-assessment of GM crops, glyphosate

More Asia items

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports Trump's appoints Sonny Perdue as Agriculture Secretary, says Perdue supports GMOs, pesticide use

News: French environment news outlet reports on recent CRIIGEN event, featuring presentations on two studies which question GMO safety assessments, one of which claims to demonstrate lack of substantial equivalence and toxicity in GM corn, and the other claiming that application of Roundup can cause disturbances in GM plants

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports 80 people protest against government support for GM maize in Yucatan

Report: USDA GAIN Report finds that while Panama has made progress in animal biotech, and has approved GE corn seed imports for local production, overall biotech development is 'not a current government priority'

News: Mexican news site reports artist Francisco Toledo asks Oaxacan governor to declare area GMO-free to protect native corn

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: Bonus Eventus
To: caitrin.martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Your Bonus Eventus registration details
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:27:37 PM

Hello caitrinmartin,

Thank you for registering!

You may login here: https://community.bonuseventus.org. If you have any questions or issues logging in, please email us at info@bonuseventus.org.

Thanks very much!

The Bonus Eventus Team

From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
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!

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In This Issue

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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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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
!Que No Te Alteren Las Hormonas EDC webinar series	International Conference on Agriculture and Biotechnology	Green Week in German Bundestag

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
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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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 ott "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

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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Cameron English: Pediatrician explains similarities between anti-vaccine movement and biotechnology opposition

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

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)

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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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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.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

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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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.

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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

Malt 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

Carn 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

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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.

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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 frouble, 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 imporfed organic produce

Brian Lovett: Non-GMO Project Verified bufterfly logo is a marketing ploy "exacerbating fears with nonsensical labeling"

Jason Lusk: Recent paper on social pressure consumers feel to buy organic suggests a porfion of organic consumption is driven by conspicuous consumption

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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

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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.

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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"

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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 cratting 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
Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: USA	16 days of global action on agroecology	Austria GMO-free weeks
October 2	**October 4-6**	**October 7-8**
French roundtable on societal health impacts of endocrine disruptors	International Biodiversity Congress	Regeneration International annual meeting

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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.

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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

Bransdford 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"

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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

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 13, 2018
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 4:08:02 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* last week, Henry Miller laid out the case for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to crack down on "blatantly false and deceptive advertising claims" from the multibillion-dollar organic industry and the Non-GMO Project. Responding two days later, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb promised on Twitter that "in the coming weeks" he would provide information to help consumers better understand such labeling claims as organic and antibiotic-free.

Amanda Zaluckyj, who wrote a piece for *The Detroit News* the same day as Gottlieb's tweet, later followed up with a blog arguing it is "well past time" for U.S. regulators to take action. And Georgetown University law professor C. Dean McGrath Jr., writing in *The Hill*, called for the law to be strictly applied to such misleading labels and marketing claims.

Other pieces on this week's newsletter include a report on the U.S. Congress withholding funding for the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a University of Nairobi professor's appeal for biotechnology in Africa and a warning that focusing on GMOs and organic food can distract from actual food security issues.

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Stakeholder Spotlight
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Stakeholder Spotlight: Bioscience Resource Project

The Bioscience Resource Project is an Ithaca, New York-based

Stories Worth Sharing

Henry Miller: FDA must stop giving a pass to organic industry's "blatantly false and deceptive advertising claims"

Dean McGrath: U.S. regulators should apply strict labeling laws to Non-GMO Project's misleading claims about GMOs

Amanda Zaluckyj: Non-GMO Project "by far the worst offender" when it comes to misleading marketing claims

Cathy Siegner: Miller's Wall Street Journal article shines light on lack of consumer education about labeling

Science 2.0: U.S. Congress withholds funding for International Agency for Research on Cancer due to glyphosate controversy

Jessica Eise: GMOs and organic food are "red herrings" compared to threat posed from climate change and water scarcity

Mulaa Francis Jakim: "Critical gaps" preventing actualization of beneficial biotechnology applications in Africa

NGO founded by Allison Wilson and her husband, Jonathan Latham.

They collaborate with U.S. Right to Know founding director Lisa Graves' Center for Media and Democracy to spread conspiracy claims that agrochemical companies are illegally conspiring with government regulators to expose the public to dangerous pesticides and GMOs.

These efforts include promotion of the so-called "Poison Papers" documents they claim show direct industry influence. Bioscience Resource Project recently donated the Poison Papers to the University of California-San Francisco.

Latham and USRTK executive director Gary Ruskin are set to take part in a panel discussion about the documents Sept. 13.

Latham participated earlier this month in a GMO-Free Kauai event.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about the Bioscience Resource Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Hank Campbell: Court ruling to require chlorpyrifos ban based on secretive science and "voodoo methodology"

Stephan Neidenbach: European court ruling on mutagenesis empowers activists to make more attacks on scientists and farmers

Michelle Miller: Labeling misconceptions and fearmongering tactics can backfire on food manufacturers

University of Strathclyde study: No correlation between pesticide usage and cases of leukemia or lymphoma

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What's Trending?

Jury awards $289M to California man over claim that Roundup causes cancer

Food Standards Australia New Zealand releases preliminary report on NBTs / European activists demand end to field trials after NBT ruling

U.S. appellate court rules EPA must ban chlorpyrifos

Trump administration overturns ban on neonics and genetically modified crops in wildlife refuges

Calendar highlights

August 15-16	August 18	August 19-24
"Ag Technology & The Law" conference hosted by National Agricultural Law Center and National Association of Attorneys General	Inspiring Australia speaking series: "From Genes to GMOs"	International Association for Plant Biotechnology Congress

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 30, 2018
Date: Monday, July 30, 2018 4:07:54 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

When a European court ruled last week that products of new plant breeding techniques such as gene editing should be restricted in the same way as those from previous genetic modification methods, it prompted broad criticism from advocates who see the decision as "scientifically illiterate" and hypocritical when compared to the continent's acceptance of climate change science. Several responses are featured in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

We also highlight a U.S. congressman's criticism of another legal decision - a California judge's agreement, despite what he called "shaky" evidence, to allow a lawsuit to move forward with claims that glyphosate causes cancer.

Other items explore NGOs' false claims about bee die-offs and tactics used by the organic industry to attack crop protection products and biotechnology.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Green America

Green America (formerly Co-op America) is a Washington, D.C.-based membership organization that claims to promote ethical consumerism and green businesses.

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: Court ruling leaves Europe "in the dark" on plant breeding innovations

Cameron English: European court ruling will make gene editing too expensive for universities, nonprofits and small businesses

Ronald Bailey: European court ruling applies "uselessly onerous" regulatory schemes to gene-edited crops

Paul Driessen: After years of fundraising against neonics, Sierra Club and other NGOs admit bees aren't dying off

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas: Judge's decision to let Roundup cancer case move forward poses "immediate and detrimental impact on farmers"

Stephan Neidenbach: Exposing "rapid response team" that serves Stonyfield's Hirshberg on GMO, herbicide issues

Hope Kelly: Biotechnology boosts Philippines agriculture market and gives hope of feeding growing population

Angela Logomasini: "Opportunistic" lawyers seeking big payouts, not proof that glyphosate causes cancer

Association members include leaders from the organic and natural products industries who use Green America certifications and marketing aids to promote their products as safer, healthier and more socially responsible than competing conventional products.

Green America sponsored campaigns include GMO Inside and the Non-GMO Supply Chain Working Group.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Green America.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Gary Truitt: If science doesn't matter, agriculture has a problem

Plant pathologist: European neonic ban based on unreasonable zero-risk principle

Christopher Bendana: African plant biotechnologists benefit from collaborative research

GENETIC LITERACY PROJECT SERIES

BY DAVID ZARUK

European Union taking away farmers' tools that are "perfectly safe as used"

Glyphosate, endocrine disruptors, neonics fall victim to EU's precautionary regulation

For highly motivated activists, "main focus is attacking industry"

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What's Trending?

European court rules products of new breeding techniques should be governed as GMOs

France reveals new Ecophyto plan to reduce pesticide usage

India's Centre for Science and Environment demands better labeling after study found GM ingredients in 32 percent of samples tested

U.S. EPA opens two-month comment period on atrazine risk assessment

Calendar highlights

August 4-10	August 5-10	August 5-6
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation food security week	Ecological Society of America annual meeting	Agricultural & Applied Economics Association annual meeting

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 9, 2018
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 4:01:32 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A wave of French media coverage emerged last week detailing how new studies have invalidated Gilles-Éric Séralini's 2012 research claiming a link between genetically modified corn and cancer. Our Favorable Outcomes newsletter starts by highlighting the first of those articles, written by Cecile Thibert of *Le Figaro*. We also have included economist Gérard Kafadaroff's take, in addition to a link to broader coverage in the What's Trending section.

Other articles take a closer look at a Roundup cancer claim lawsuit, the activist group SumOfUs and its tactics and a change of heart for a former biotechnology opponent in Ghana.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Thousand Currents

Thousand Currents, formerly IDEX, is a leading player in the global movement to adopt pesticide- and GMO-eschewing agroecology development policies.

Thousand Currents president Rajasvini Bhansali, also a board member of Greenpeace, serves

Stories Worth Sharing

Cecile Thibert: New study invalidates Séralini claims that genetically modified corn caused tumors

Angela Logomasini: Roundup cancer claim should be dismissed because "no court of law" should take IARC reviews seriously

Alex Berezow: Live Science harms reputation by publishing anti-pesticide fearmongering

Joy: Former Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana president changes stance, declares GMOs safe

EurActiv: Brussels lobbyist sees environmental NGOs holding more power than even European Food Safety Authority

David Zaruk: SumOfUs anti-pesticide campaigns "squeezing the innocent and confused for every nickel and dime they can get"

Gérard Kafadaroff: Media failed to inform public that Séralini glyphosate study didn't meet scientific standards

Tim Durham: Despite "decades-long track record of safety," GM crops treated harshly by regulators

Richard Roberts: GMOs can make a real difference in the lives of the world's poor

as a key advisor to the AgroEcology Fund and other donor groups that have committed $500 million to promoting this agenda with government and international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Learn more about Thousand Currents HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Nick Saik: CRISPR is faster, cheaper and higher quality than other techniques for gene editing

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What's Trending?

Proposed regulation in Brazil draws concern about rolling back pesticide approval requirements

French media highlight studies invalidating Seralini risk claims about GM crops, glyphosate

Trial begins in California lawsuit claiming Roundup causes cancer

Convention on Biological Diversity science advisers discuss synthetic biology at Montreal meeting

Calendar highlights

July 10-12	July 11-13	July 13-15
One Water Summit	Heartland Apicultural Society conference	Slow Food Nations Festival
July 15-18	**July 16-19**	**July 17**
Institute of Food Technologists annual expo	World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	Hearing on U.S. EPA science censorship rule

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 18, 2018
Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 4:51:17 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Is the Non-GMO Project labeling craze about to run its course? The University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth examines this question in the piece that leads off this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter. Smyth notes that brands including Betty Crocker and Clover Leaf Seafood have dismissed the Non-GMO Project's label in recent weeks in a possible trend of companies casting doubt on the anti-biotech initiative. In a separate piece, *BEEF Magazine* columnist Amanda Radke explains how an "abundance of labeling claims" is leading to confusion among consumers.

Other pieces highlighted this week include a pair of articles on the potential nutritional value of Golden Rice, plus a scientific explanation of why glyphosate should not be considered harmful to bees.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Sustainable Food Alliance

The Sustainable Food Alliance is a nonprofit set up in partnership with the U.K.-based Sustainable Food Trust solely to funnel resources from U.S. donors to European campaigns promoting regenerative, organic and agroecology practices while

Stories Worth Sharing

Stuart Smyth: Brands fighting back against Non-GMO Project's labeling "gimmick" that has no proven benefits

Amanda Radke: IFIC survey shows media and activist rhetoric turning public toward foods labeled non-GMO

David Zaruk: Small group used exclusionary methodology to create momentum against glyphosate in Europe

Iida Ruishalme: Closer look at research shows glyphosate does not pose threat to bees

Emil Javier: Thousands of children becoming blind, dying from Vitamin A deficiency as Philippines refuses to approve Golden Rice

Science 2.0: Cancer label for glyphosate would have no scientific validity

Alex Berezow: "Improperly educated, hyperpartisan" New York Times reporters spread pseudoscience on GMOs, pesticides

Andrew Porterfield: U.S. FDA rejects activists' affempts to misconstrue statement on nutritional benefits of Golden Rice

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute videos show success of Bt brinjal: Part 1 Part 2

criticizing GMOs and pesticides.

Both groups receive financial support from the organic and natural products industries and are responsible for funding the U.K. NGO GMWatch and Gilles-Eric Seralini research attacking the safety of GMOs and pesticides.

Click HERE to learn more about the Sustainable Food Alliance.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Adele Peters: U.K. researchers attempting to use CRISPR to save bananas

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What's Trending?

PG Economics: GM crops bring significant value to farmers in developing countries

Court rules cancer warnings not needed on glyphosate products in California

Hawaii governor signs bill to ban chlorpyrifos

Canadian Food Inspection Agency discovers unapproved, Roundup-tolerant GM wheat in Alberta

National Pollinator Week observed in United States

Calendar highlights

June 18-21	June 19	June 19-22
Plant Biology Europe	European Parliament committee meeting on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	International Conference on Environmental & Food Monitoring
June 20-21	**June 21**	**June 25-27**
4th Global Summit on Plant Genomics	U.S. Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus briefing	World Biotechnology Conference

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 4, 2018
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 4:02:47 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

In 2014, a Russian-backed outfit promised the world's most comprehensive study into the safety of genetically modified crops and glyphosate. Despite plenty of hubbub about its plans, *BuzzFeed* reports that it never delivered.

The Ramazzini Institute pumped out a series of papers claiming to show glyphosate is dangerous, only to be received by European government regulators as a promulgator of junk science.

The Non-GMO Project portrays itself as an organization dedicated to educating consumers, but *Agweek* criticized its labeling practices as misleading.

All these deceptive tactics are explored in pieces highlighted in this week's Stories Worth Sharing. Other articles describe the push by young Ugandans for biotechnology, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of Golden Rice and a report estimating the financial impact of China's delays in approving biotechnology products.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: National Association for Genetic Safety

A new report from *BuzzFeed* raises the question of what happened to the now overdue

Stories Worth Sharing

Dan Vergano: Russian group's promise for world's largest GMO study seems to have been a ruse

Lominda Afedraru: Youth in Uganda demand lawmakers embrace science, technology and innovation

Hank Campbell: Europeans have figured out the Ramazzini Institute's junk science on glyphosate

Sandhya Ramesh: Approved by U.S. FDA, Golden Rice could solve vitamin A deficiency in Asia

Jonathan Knutson: Non-GMO Project's labeling of non-GMO salt is "downright deceptive"

Amanda Zaluckyj: Farmers don't "drown" or "douse" their fields with pesticides

Gregory Bond: Like other chemicals, regulation of suspected endocrine disruptors should be based on risk instead of hazard

Andrew Newhouse: Biotechnology safely bringing back the American

Factor GMO study that was billed as the definitive investigation into the safety of genetically modified foods and glyphosate.

Promoted in 2014 as a three-year, $25 million study, any trace of the Factor GMO project has fallen off the map. A board member for the study told *BuzzFeed* he knows nothing about where the project stands, and Factor GMO isn't responding to inquiries.

The Moscow-based National Association for Genetic Safety (NAGS) was one of the key organizers of the Factor GMO launch.

Click HERE to learn more about NAGS and Factor GMO.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

chestnut tree

Reuters: Report finds China's slow biotech approvals costing U.S. companies $7 billion

Jenny Schlecht: Agriculture supporters #BakingWithBetty after science-based support of GMOs by Betty Crocker

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What's Trending?

Study estimates financial impact of China delaying biotech product approvals

Canada opens 90-day comment period on plan to phase out many uses of imidacloprid

Macron administration pledges to keep pursuing glyphosate phase-out despite exclusion from France's food bill

European Commission launches pollinator initiative that includes plan to strengthen pesticide risk assessments

Whole Foods Market delays plan to require GMO labeling with USDA proposal still in flux

Calendar highlights

June 7	June 7-8	June 8
European Parliament pesticide commiffee to hear testimony from EFSA, ECHA, Chris Portier	Mid-South Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference	Pesticide Action Network Europe conference on creating pesticide-free towns

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 28, 2018
Date: Monday, May 28, 2018 4 05:18 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights commentary on variety of current food and agriculture topics, including the use of CRISPR to fight a critical citrus disease, discussion of how organic farms could harm the environment, reaction to the selection of a new leader by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and criticism of Scotland's policy against GMOs.

Other items offer praise for U.S. regulators' GMO labeling proposal and favorable review of Golden Rice.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Made Safe

Made Safe, also known as Nontoxic Certified, is a registered non-profit involved in advocacy against endocrine-disrupting chemicals and pesticides in North America.

It offers a "made safe" certified seal tied to the for-profit consultancy Veritey Consulting, which is run by the same co-founders, Amy Ziff and Adrienne

Stories Worth Sharing

Mark Lynas: Scotland's stance against GMOs a "travesty" for science, with trickle-down effect in other countries

Yi Li: CRISPR technique offers potential solution to citrus greening

Robert Paarlberg: Increasing organic food production could harm environment by destroying wildlife habitat

Amanda Zaluckyj: USDA's proposed GMO labeling guidelines are brilliant, casting bioengineered foods in a positive light

Henry Miller: European neonic ban based on fabricated studies, rigged regulatory review

Louis Auge: Selection of Weiderpass as IARC leader dashes optimism agency would change its ways

ACSH: Golden Rice gets favorable evaluation from U.S. regulators

Alex Berezow: Betty Crocker stands up to hysteria, proclaims "GMOs are safe"

Tom Whipple: Scientists skeptical of claims "obesogen" chemicals cause obesity

Joseph Opoku Gakpo: Mozambique citizens seem ready to accept GMOs

Peres.

Made Safe just released its Hazards List, which says GMOs, high-risk pesticides and endocrine disruptors, as well as numerous other chemicals, materials and ingredients, are excluded from being in any product it certifies. It noted it follows Pesticide Action Network's list of highly hazardous pesticides.

Click HERE to learn more about the Made Safe.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Scientists debunk claims GMOs are causing cancer in Ghana

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What's Trending?

National Assembly's consideration of food bill revives demands for France to end glyphosate usage within three years

Dalhousie University survey finds most Canadians want GMO labeling but don't understand whether GMOs are in their food

Thailand decides against ban on glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and paraquat but may pursue limits

Washington Post: Analysis sparks conversation over use of pesticides in organic farming

U.S. survey finds managed bee colony losses rose to 40 percent last year

Calendar highlights

May 29-30	May 29-30	May 31 - June 2
EU Food & Farm Forum	Horizon 2020 workshop - "Advancing Assessment of Chemical Mixtures and Their Risks for Human Health and the Environment"	Brazil National Meeting of Agroecology
May 31	**June 1**	**June 4-7**
Showing of Stephane Horel documentary "Endoc(t)rinement" at Friends of the Louvre EDC conference	Utrecht University obesogens researcher lecture: "Are Chemicals Making Us Fat?"	Biotechnology Innovation Organization international convention

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 21, 2018
Date: Monday, May 21, 2018 10:35:24 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

As previewed in last week's newsletter, the International Agency for Research on Cancer selected its new director, choosing Elisabete Weiderpass to replace Christopher Wild. Favorable Outcomes this week leads off with Hank Campbell's reaction to the predictable selection and some tips if Weiderpass wants to restore the agency's credibility.

We also highlight reaction to the new glyphosate claims promoted by the Ramazzini Institute - which, like IARC, was investigated by the U.S. Congress last year - and Henry Miller takes a closer look at neonic regulation in Europe as compared to the United States.

And with organic promoters kicking off Organic Week today in Washington, Paul Driessen examines claims that organic crops are superior and healthier to their genetically modified counterparts.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Ramazzini Institute

The Italy-based Ramazzini Institute returned to the public eye last week when it announced it will publish three studies in the journal *Environmental Health* this month questioning the safety of glyphosate.

Stories Worth Sharing

Hank Campbell: New director Weiderpass likely to keep status quo for IARC / But she should purge activists, increase transparency

Henry Miller on neonics: Europe takes "evidence-be-damned" approach / U.S. follows science, recognizes benefits

Marc Brazeau: "Lot of problems" with Ramazzini study claiming glyphosate is harmful, and with Guardian coverage of it

Paul Driessen: "Evidence strongly supports GE over organic crops" with better shelf life, lower prices

Lindsay Burgess: GMOs are good for farmers and the environment while posing no additional threat to human health

Angela Logomasini: U.S. EPA's Integrated Risk Information System overly cautious due to reliance on "outlandish assumptions"

L.M.K. Tillekeratne: Glyphosate ban based on "half-baked" science responsible for decline in rubber plantation productivity

Pamela Ronald: Feelings are an inescapable obstacle to public's perception of genetic modification

The enigmatic society, which has had its funding questioned previously by the U.S. House Science Committee, published manuscripts from its Global Glyphosate Study claiming that glyphosate-based herbicides alter sexual development, genotoxicity and the intestinal microbiome at doses considered safe by U.S. regulators. It continues to seek crowdfunding for an estimated 5 million euro campaign.

Ramazzini's work was quickly amplified by Greenpeace, the Organic Consumers Association, GMWatch, Generations Futures and The Greens/European Free Alliance. However, its work was questioned by academics in France and Belgium.

Click HERE to learn more about the Ramazzini Institute.

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Steven Cerier: USDA regulatory approach to gene-edited crops will slash development costs

Norwegian thesis project finds African farmers see GMOs favorably, are eager to adopt new technology

Irish research finds 80 to 90 percent reduction in fungicide applications with blight-resistant potato

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What's Trending?

March Against Monsanto protests in Europe, Latin America, North America draw limited media attention

World Bee Day attracts broad stakeholder interest, with FAO calling for agroecology to replace pesticide-based agriculture model

European court upholds neonic restrictions

U.S. lawmakers vote down Farm Bill proposal; environmentalists pleased pesticide regulations won't be rolled back

Calendar highlights

May 21-24	May 21-22	May 21-25
Organic Week	The Organic Center's Organic Confluences Summit	Fera Science 12th European Pesticide Residue Workshop
May 22	May 22-24	May 22
European Parliament Sustainable Use of Pesticides Conference	EDC-MixRisk Consortium Meeting	International Day for Biological Diversity
May 23-24	May 24	May 24-25
AgriChem & Technology LatAm	Organic Trade Association policy conference	Meeting of the European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

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Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 4 57:25 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

As the International Agency for Research on Cancer is reportedly narrowing down its list of candidates to be its next president, this week's Favorable Outcomes highlights a pair of articles that explore IARC - one that revistis its controversial ruling that glyphosate could cause cancer and another suggesting that the agency can move back toward good science with a new leader in place.

We also shine a spotlight on items dealing with misleading food labels, European policy on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and a potential biotechnology solution to cassava virus in Uganda.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Rainforest Alliance

The Rainforest Alliance promotes an agroecology-based certification service - similar to fair trade and other eco-friendly third-party programs - that prohibits the use of many pesticides (e.g., atrazine, paraquat, triazines) and all GMOs.

It promotes itself as going

Stories Worth Sharing

Andre Heitz: Inside the IARC conspiracy to misrepresent health risks from glyphosate

Ellen Dhain: European dratt guidance wrongly assumes chemicals have endocrine-disrupting properties

Lominda Afedraru: Ugandan farmers eagerly await GMO solution to cassava virus

Amanda Zaluckyj: Europeans' embrace of organic, rejection of GMOs goes against environmental stewardship

Michelle Miller: Debunking latest claims that glyphosate is in your food

Ludger Wess: European organic industry getting in the way of CRISPR innovations, harming the environment

Joe McCarthy: Mike Adams creates alternate reality with Natural News "misinformation empire"

Consumer & Society: Change in leadership otters IARC chance to return to science instead of scaremongering

Alliance for Food and Farming: Media coverage becoming more critical of Environmental Working Group "Dirty Dozen" pesticide claims

AGDAILY: "Funny or Die" explores absurdity of food labeling

"beyond organic" as relates to conservation and worker welfare. In 1998, it launched the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), which follows RA certification requirements restricting use of pesticides and prohibiting use of GMOs, while extending the NGO's work in Africa and other regions.

It includes a focus on sustainable coffee, bananas, tea and other products that are marketed with its seal by major food retailers such as McDonald's, Unilever, American Airlines and Whole Foods Market. This week, SAN published a reporf claiming "sustainable" cerfification schemes for poor farmers in developing markets are the best pathway to sustainable agriculture for both farmer economics and the environment.

Click HERE to learn more about Rainforest Alliance.

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What's Trending?

Activists claim U.S. farm bill up for consideration this week would ease pesticide regulations and harm farmworkers, pollinators

Anti-GMO groups unhappy with U.S. proposal to use "bioengineered" term on labels

Italian study warns of 259 pesticides in surface water

Sugar industry predicts significant losses from European neonic ban

Calendar highlights

May 14-15	May 15	May 15-18
Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe	European Parliament committee on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU general assembly
May 15	May 16-17	May 16-18
"Whitewash" presentation at Houston Museum of Fine Arfs by U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam	Meeting of European Parliament Commiffee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Conference on Governance of Emerging Technologies & Science: Law, Policy and Ethics
May 17	May 17	May 19
European Court of Justice releases judgments on challenges to 2013 restrictions on neonics and fipronil	Center for Environmental Health "Evening of Audacious Action"	March Against Monsanto - some events also target Syngenta, Dow, BASF

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - May 7, 2018
Date: Monday, May 7, 2018 5:58:23 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A central theme of the items highlighted in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter is the importance of following good science - and the ramifications of doing the opposite.

The Washington Post opinion writer Michael Gerson explains that science supports the safety of genetically modified crops and that human lives are affected when that is ignored. David Zaruk, from his "The Risk-Monger" blog, takes a closer look at European authorities' conscious decision to ignore even their own science team's recommendations in proposing a ban on neonics. And Michael Dourson, in the *Washington Examiner*, describes how a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency policy proposal would emphasize replicable, transparent research in the risk assessment process.

Other items take a critical look at activists David Suzuki and Carey Gillam as well as misleading anti-GMO claims and pro-organic marketing from Stonyfield Farm.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: ETC Group

Canada-based ETC Group is planning a monthlong campaign to promote the "peasant food web" as a sustainable alternative to industrial food production.

Stories Worth Sharing

Michael Gerson: Anti-GMO movement is anti-science and has a human cost

David Zaruk: Neonic ban a "failure of European leadership," which decided to shun science

Alex Berezow: Guardian provided disservice by publishing out-of-context glyphosate claims from activist with conflict of interest

Michael Dourson: EPA research policy sound because public interest is "best served when science is replicable and consistent"

Margaret Wente: David Suzuki, "menace to scientific inquiry," undeserving of University of Alberta honor

Josh Bloom: European study shows how misinformation spreads myths that GMOs and other factors cause cancer

Sarah Schultz: No reason for moms to pay more for organic food, despite Stonyfield's "absurd" anti-GMO marketing claims

Hank Campbell: With no "beepocalypse" happening, push to plant flowers makes humans feel good without doing much for bees

Last week, the NGO put out its first in a series of four animated videos, claiming that peasant agriculture produces 70 percent of the world's food while using only 25 percent of the resources. The videos feature the theme "Who Will Feed Us?" and build on a report it released in October.

ETC Group - originally the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration - is also a leading opponent of gene editing.

Click HERE to learn more about ETC Group.

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Alison Bernstein: Understanding that safety is always relative and zero risk is an "impossible dream"

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences food security report notes importance of biotechnology

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What's Trending?

USDA releases proposed labeling rule using bioengineered instead of GMO, will take comments through July 3

Pruitt research transparency proposal drives activist opposition, gains industry support

Monsanto challenges Indian court's ruling that it cannot patent Bt cotton seeds

European farm groups express concern about negative impact of neonic ban

Calendar highlights

May 9-10	May 13-17	May 14-15
International Food Policy Research Institute dialogue: "Towards Agricultural Innovation in Ghana: An Evidence-Based Approach"	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry conference in Rome	6th Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe

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Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - April 30, 2018
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 4 03:22 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a series of articles that dig into some of the hottest food and agriculture topics of the day: the European ban on neonics, the U.S. farm bill and Environmental Working Group's "Dirty Dozen" list.

There's also a column from *The New York Times* that describes how science has yet to prove any real threats from genetically modified food - and how it could benefit developing countries.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) was founded in 2014 by activist Gary Hooser with board members from the environmental law group Earthjustice and other environmental, labor and political organizations.

HAPA has primarily engaged in lobbying efforts to ban GMOs

Stories Worth Sharing

Jane Brody: Fears about GMOs are "theoretical," but benefits in developing countries could be real

Jon Entine: Why was Europe set on banning neonics when rest of world sees little threat to bees?

Amanda Zaluckyj: U.S. farm bill's $25M earmark for organic agriculture should instead be used to benefit all types of farming

Lindsay Burgess: It's OK to ignore the "Dirty Dozen" list

Joe Schwarz: Environmental Working Group sounds false alarm about pesticides on produce because it "keeps donations coming in"

Toban Dyck: Agriculture can always improve, but calling pesticides and GMOs "unhealthy and environmentally harmful is inaccurate"

Henry Miller and Drew Kershen: IFOAM ensures organic practices are to agriculture "what cigarette smoking is to human health"

Joseph Opoku Gakpo: Water Efficient Maize for Africa field trials showing armyworm resistance

Carrie Dennett: Don't let "Dirty Dozen" scare you away from buying produce

Chuck Dinerstein: Will Congress make the right call on who should oversee GM food and animals?

and pesticide usage in Hawaii. The group is closely affiliated with the Center for Food Safety Hawaii office, which is a co-litigant with Earthjustice on numerous anti-agriculture lawsuits, and the organic industry-funded Hawaii SEED group.

Hooser, who formerly served as the Hawaiian Senate majority leader and a Kauai County Council member, was recently recruited by Swiss NGO Public Eye to aid in its promotion in Switzerland of the documentary "Poisoning Paradise" that claims agrochemical companies' use of pesticides on open-air GMO labs in Kauai harms the health of Hawaiians.

Hooser has been active recently advocating for passage of a Hawaii bill that would ban the use of chlorpyrifos. The bill passed out of the legislature's conference committee Friday and votes in both chambers are expected Tuesday.

Click HERE to learn more about HAPA.

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What's Trending?

European member states approve outdoor ban of neonics

U.S. advocacy targets: Farm Bill rollback of endangered species protections / EPA science transparency initiative

U.K. cancer research firm lists GMOs among "mythical" factors public wrongly believes cause cancer

Comment period on U.S. glyphosate review concludes

Calendar highlights

May 2-4	May 3	May 9-10
Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm conventions symposium: "Chemicals and wastes and the prevention of soil pollution"	Princeton University "Science for the People" panel featuring Tyrone Hayes	International Food Policy Research Institute dialogue: "Towards Agricultural Innovation in Ghana: An Evidence-Based Approach"

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Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 4 03:57 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

After NGOs marked Earth Day this weekend with a series of U.S. speeches from anti-GMO, anti-corporate activist Vandana Shiva and the spread of false claims about pesticides pushing bees toward extinction, this week's newsletter provides links to various sources' attempts to unearth some scientific facts on food and agriculture.

This week's Favorable Outcomes includes a review of bee health issues from Jon Entine, some tips from David Zaruk for communicating positive messages about pesticides and a couple of Earth Day-themed pieces. Also, Richard Roberts takes a closer look at biosafety legislation in Uganda.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: U.S. Right to Know

An offshoot of the Organic Consumers Association, U.S. Right to Know has been a key player recently in promoting and supporting anti-pesticide litigation.

The NGO has publicized court hearings in California on claims that glyphosate causes cancer,

Stories Worth Sharing

Jon Entine: Disputing claims that bees are going extinct and pesticides are to blame

Alex Berezow: Organic Consumers Association helps spread "nonsense" claim that pesticides influence school shootings

Richard Roberts: Anti-biotech activists using poison pill amendments to Uganda biosafety bill to impose pro-poverty agenda

David Zaruk: 10 tips for communicating positive information about pesticides

Ronald Bailey: USDA decision on gene editing opens "vibrant new biotech crop and seed industry"

Will Coggin: Earth Day brings out "garbage advice" from activists to shun GMOs, support organic

Henry Miller/Jett Stier: Earth Day renews "deeply flawed" anti-pesticide claims from Rachel Carson

Mark Lynas: I changed my mind on GMOs because I "got the science wrong"

Michelle Miller: What Vandana Shiva needs to know about American family farms

as well as promoting similar claims and anti-industry messaging in seeking to boost sales of Carey Gillam's "Whitewash" book.

USRTK also actively recruits whistleblowers to expose "hidden crimes or scandals" in the food industry.

Click HERE to learn more about U.S Right to Know.

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Science Codex: Friends of the Earth ignores danger to bees from common organic pesticide spinosad

USDA radio service examines whether consumer-focused GMOs can bring public acceptance

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What's Trending?

California court rules state can list glyphosate as potential carcinogen

Brazil's Senate approves measure to relax GMO labeling requirements

U.S. consultation on neonics ends with activists promoting submission of 219,000 negative comments

Court ruling could open door to GM crops in Italy

Vote planned Friday on proposed EU ban on outdoor uses of neonics

Calendar highlights

April 16-20	April 16-18	April 17
International Symposium on Pollination	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America meeting	International Day of Peasant Struggle
April 21-29	**April 23-24**	**April 23-24**
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements leadership course in Ghana	International Conference on Food Technology and Biotechnology	International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agroecology

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Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 4:04:37 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Transparency has become the hot topic in food safety.

While CropLife International and the European Crop Protection Association are launching a joint initiative that will give the public greater access to safety studies, regulators in the United States are also focusing on changing their scientific transparency policies -- a subject discussed in this week's newsletter in pieces by Steve Savage and Steve Milloy.

Other pieces highlight the back-and-forth over GMOs in Uganda, new research making endocrine disruption claims and a visit to the U.S. by Indian activist Vandana Shiva.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

IFOAM Executive Director Markus Arbenz will be among the presenters next week at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology in

Stories Worth Sharing

Steve Savage: USDA Pesticide Data Program provides important transparency on food safety that gets twisted by activists

Steve Milloy: U.S. EPA should be praised for moving away from "unaccountable, dodgy science" based on political agendas

Michelle Miller: Wisconsin university will pay Vandana Shiva $20,000 to spread her anti-GMO lies

Isaac Ongu: Opposition to GMOs in Uganda fueled by "threat to organic's profits"

Authors reverse findings from paper claiming CRISPR gene-editing technique could result in unintended mutations

Science 2.0: Activist researcher Barbara Demeneix has "anti-science mentality" that everything is an endocrine disruptor

Kevin Folta: U.S. congressional report spreads "conspiracy nonsense" and "blatant misinformation" about glyphosate

Devang Mehta: I'm quitting GMO research due to "relentless suspicion" of technologies proven to be safe

Chandre Dharnawardana: Sri Lanka ban on paraquat and glyphosate makes poor stay hungry while rich search for "clean food"

Rome. The NGO is touting the three-day symposium as an opportunity to spread its message that there's a "broad consensus that agroecology can be instrumental" in reaching environmental sustainability goals and combating rural poverty.

Last week, IFOAM and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) promoted teir joint report, "Socioeconomic Impacts of GMOs on European agriculture," that claims biotech and organic crops cannot coexist due to the threat of cross-contamination and that banning GM crops is an "efficient strategy."

Click HERE to learn more about IFOAM, which touts more than 1,000 affiliates in 120 countries.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Charles Laverty: California's Prop 65 cancer warnings an example of "bad science driving bad policy"

KNOW GMOs: New study explains "halo effect" of GM crops on nearby non-GM fields

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

U.S. Department of Agriculture clarifies that it will not regulate plants altered using gene editing

Former Socialist ecology minister resigns from French pesticide commission to highlight demand for glyphosate ban

Vote scheduled Tuesday on Mexico's general biodiversity law

Activists mark one-year anniversary of chlorpyrifos ban reversal with campaign against EPA Administrator Pruitt

Stakeholders demand pesticide reductions as April 5 deadline nears for EU Pollinators Initiative

Calendar highlights

April 3-5	April 4	April 5
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition "Our Farms Our Future" conference	CRIIGEN's Christian Velot lectures on endocrine-disrupting chemicals	Tyrone Hayes lecture at San Jose State University
April 7	**April 9-13**	**April 9-14**
Tuffs University annual Food and Nutrition Conference	FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues meets in China

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 12, 2018
Date: Monday, March 12, 2018 7:45:18 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

For the second time in as many months, an analysis of decades of data has come to the conclusion that genetically modified crops are beneficial. First, an Italian meta-analysis last month found GM corn to be beneficial and carry no evidence of health risks. Now, a University of Maryland study released today finds that Bt corn brings "significant" decreases in pesticide spraying regimens and overall damage in crops including sweet corn, peppers, and green beans. In a piece below, Murenga Mwimali argues that its time for leaders to start paying attention to such research and embrace biotechnology.

Also highlighted below are rebuttals to the European Food Safety Authority's assessments of neonics from David Zaruk and Angela Logomasini, plus further commentary on Russian influence on anti-GMO sentiment and criticisms of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Several organizations also marked International Women's Day last week with profiles of prominent women in food and agriculture and efforts to empower female farmers in the developing world.

To view items on this newsleffer, 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

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Gary Hirshberg

Leading mandatory GMO labeling and anti-pesticide advocate and organic industry mogul Gary Hirshberg is back in the news this week. His Stonyfield Organic brand

Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: EFSA review claiming neonics harm bees based on "scientifically worthless" guidance document

Iida Ruishalme and Alison Bernstein: IARC's reliance on hazard while ignoring actual risk only confuses public

Jonathan Jarry: Mike Adams' online empire - including Natural News - creates "alternate reality" for anti-GMO pseudoscience

Andrew Porterfield: Russia pushing anti-GMO propaganda in U.S. to boost its agricultural power

Hank Campbell: Environmental Working Group adds another board member from organic industry, further proving it is not independent

University of Maryland analysis finds Bt corn significantly decreases insecticide spraying and overall damage to several crops

Angela Logomasini: EFSA neonic reviews applied "excessively precautionary approach that makes little sense"

Julie Kelly and Jeff Stier: "Fundamental" changes needed to IARC before it engrains itself further into U.S. policy

announced he would return to an operational role kicking off a major political advocacy campaign to promote organic interests in the 2018 U.S. elections.

Hirshberg was also named as a founder and angel investor in the natural health and supplement company Ancient Nutrition, seeking a multibillion-dollar payout bringing that company to market.

Learn more about Hirshberg HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Lowell Catlett: U.S. Sen. Udall should remove hold, allow authorization of Pesticide Registration Improvement Act

Murenga Mwimali: African leaders should pay attention to studies finding GM crops safe, embrace Water Efficient Maize project

Deepak Pental: India "can't go back to pre-1900 agriculture"

Steven Cerier: New breeding techniques bring potential to produce disease-, drought- and pest-resistant crops

Video: New York Times' Nicholas Kristof has skewed view about chemicals found in activist group's urine test

Deniers for Hire: Center for Biological Diversity's Nathan Donley and his "misplaced faith" in IARC

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Judge considers scientific testimony in case over claims that glyphosate causes cancer

University of Montreal researcher previews study claiming neonics impact hormones in humans

Indian cotton seed companies threaten to halt supply in protest of government plan to cut prices

Activist groups amplify poll finding most U.S. farmers fear Bayer's purchase of Monsanto will have negative impact

European Commission expected to propose neonic ban after EFSA risk assessments claim harm to bees

Calendar highlights

March 13	March 13	March 13
Chemical Watch Global Business Summit (Amsterdam)	Royal Society Te Aparangi gene editing workshop (New Zealand)	Geneva Human Rights Film Festival screening of "Poisoning Paradise"
March 14-16	March 14	March 14
World Biotechnology Conference (London)	Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress: Europe (Rotterdam)	South by Southwest festival session - "GMO 2.0: Beyond Monsanto"
March 14-15	March 14, 15 and 16	March 17-20
EFSA open meeting of Panel on Plant Protection Products and their	Norway Biotechnology Council public forums on GMOs	Endocrine Society annual meeting (Chicago)

Residues		

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - March 5, 2018
Date: Monday, March 5, 2018 4:01:49 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

The question of whether there was Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election has been a topic in the headlines for more than a year. But what about Russian influence on U.S. agriculture and attitudes toward biotechnology?

An Iowa State University analysis concluded that Russian outlets are behind "misinformation attacks" spreading anti-GMO sentiment in the United States. The topic is explored further in a series of articles in this week's newsletter.

Among other articles, Bill Gates refers to GMOs as "perfectly healthy" and Paul Driessen calls for the U.S. Congress to "get tough" on the pseudo-science promoted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and U.S. National Institutes for Environmental Health Sciences director Linda Birnbaum.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Charles Benbrook

"He's back! The Energizer Bunny of organic industry-funded advocacy and pesticide litigation consulting, Charles Benbrook has released another industry-funded study claiming organic foods are superior in health and

Stories Worth Sharing

Carly Cassella: Americans "playing right into Putin's hand" by distrusting GMOs

Anastasia Bodnar: Add Russian influence to reasons people have "irrational fear" of biotechnolgy

Paul Driessen: Time for U.S. Congress to show "spine" and hold International Agency for Research on Cancer accountable

David Zaruk: NGOs' "silence the science" tactic in full ettect against neonicotinoids

Brian McNicoll: U.S. Right to Know activist Carey Gillam just behind Russian outlets in spreading most anti-GMO rhetoric

Bill Gates: GMOs are "perfectly healthy," promising tool to fight world hunger

Peter Van Voorhis: "Unscientific work" of IARC finally being revealed as U.S. lawmakers stand behind farmers

Hank Campbell: Judge turns to science to block lawyers' bid to "get rich" ott glyphosate cancer claims

nutrition to their lower-priced conventional counterparts.

Other Benbrook research was also cited this week by an activist report by the Center for Biological Diversity alleging the herbicide dicamba is threatening monarch butterfly populations. An ag economist, Benbrook's professed expertise extends well beyond his areas of academic study to include consulting and reporting on hot-button food issues ranging from alleged endocrine-disrupting chemical health risks to supposed nutritional benefits of organic foods.

Called one of the top go-to paid advocates for the organic marketing industry, anti-GMO activist groups and pesticide litigators - learn more about Benbrook HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Abdulrazak Ibrahim: Nigeria should host national workshop to consider potential of CRISPR use in food production

Chuck Dinerstein: By spreading Kristof's claims on chemicals, New York Times engages in "hyperbole at the price of scientific honesty"

USAID: Blight-resistant potato could make "dramatic impact" on lives of Bangladesh farmers

Terry Anderson and Henry Miller: Organic farming a prime example of inetticient water use in California

Omri Ben-Shahar: Italian analysis of GMO corn benefits should be "conclusive" science needed to end public debate

Australian geneticist Fahad Ali: "We need gene technology on our side" so it can save lives

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Food Safety Authority neonic risk assessments drive call for ban from NGOs and lawmakers

Monsanto faces key hearing in lawsuit over whether glyphosate causes cancer

Ghana activists meet with members of Parliament to raise opposition to GMOs

U.S. EPA opens 60-day comment period on draft assessments of glyphosate

European Parliament approves measures to boost beekeeping industry, endorses request for European Commission to propose neonic ban

Calendar highlights

March 5-7	March 5-9	March 6-7
World Congress on Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture (Paris)	CBD Workshop on Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for Francophone Africa	Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Congress
March 7-8	**March 7-11**	**March 14**
Plenary meeting of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms	Natural Products Expo West	South by Southwest festival session - "GMO 2.0: Beyond Monsanto"

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 26, 2018
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:12:30 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

The verdict is in: Italian researchers reviewed the usage of genetically modified corn over more than 20 years, concluding that the crop provides clear yield and health benefits over the non-GM alternative. The findings are highlighted on this week's newsletter in pieces by Paul McDivitt, Jakob Owens and Mark Lynas. *Newsweek* also published an article on the study.

Among other items, researchers Alison Van Eenennaam and Nina Fedoroff call for changes to U.S. biotechnology regulations, and officials from Bayer and CropLife International - respectively - warn about efforts in Europe to restrict neonics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals based on politics instead of science.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa is promoting a meta-analysis of 50 case studies from 22 African countries that claims their view of technology-eschewing agroecology can help meet United Nations sustainable development goals. The NGO's

Stories Worth Sharing

Paul McDivitt: Two decades of data prove GM corn increases yields and provides health benefits

Jakob Owens: Italian research should put rumors to rest about benefits of GM corn

Alison Van Eenennaam/Nina Fedoroff: Proven safe, biotechnology should be regulated "from common sense instead of fear"

Mark Lynas: Italian analysis gives "powerful scientific evidence" that GM maize is inherently safer and more productive

David Zaruk: Pesticides are a "valuable precautionary tool" in sustainable agriculture

Howard Minigh: If politics trump science on EU EDC regulations, it will have serious impact on trade and discourage innovation

Ross Pomeroy: Like papayas and bananas before, genetic engineering should be used to save coffee

French magazine: Activists skew facts in claiming EU pesticide authorization tests are linked to industry

Bill Wirtz: Tangled web of intermingled EU activist groups has "complicated relationship with the truth"

study claims agroecology has benefits for yields, food security, nutrition, health, education, poverty reduction, environmental regeneration and climate resilience without the use of modern crop protection and biotechnology tools.

It's the latest move from the pan-African, anti-GMO activist group that has joined with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and GRAIN to block biofortified foods and campaign for agroecology instead.

LEARN MORE about AFSA.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Martin Gruss: "No provably positive benefits for bees" from EU neonic ban

Lominda Afredaru: Prospects of gene editing in Uganda are exciting

William Reville: No "single unique culprit" for bee colony collapse, extensive use of honeybees could damage environment

University of Minnesota grad students ask U.S. government to update biotechnology regulations to allow more efficient research

Geoffrey Kabat: Campaigns against glyphosate, coffee, BPA take isolated findings out of scientific context to scare the public

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament pressured to approve anti-neonic resolution / EFSA to release neonic risk assessments

Mexican Academy of Sciences Biotechnology Committee member's new book details benefits of GMOs

Monsanto subpoenas documents from NGO Avaaz about glyphosate, IARC

Generations Futures report claims 75 percent of French produce is contaminated with pesticides

Quebec government to resfrict usage of neonics, atrazine, chlorpyrifos

Calendar highlights

February 27	February 28	February 28
Academie Royale de Belgique lecture on EDCs	Greens-led discussion on modern agriculture challenges (Germany)	European Food Safety Authority releases neonic risk assessments
March 3	**March 5-7**	**March 5-9**
University of California-Davis bee symposium	World Congress on Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture (Paris)	CBD Workshop on Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for Francophone Africa

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Feb. 5, 2018
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:03:14 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

An ill-conceived attack ad on GMOs continues to blow up in Stonyfield Farm's face. After initial criticism for relying on young girls to spread myfhs about biotechnology, the organic giant only made matters worse by dismissing its critics as "trolls" with fake online profiles. The backlash got bad enough that its former creative agency distanced itself from the video and went as far as saying it disagreed with Stonyfield's response.

Four pieces on this week's newsletter - by Michelle Miller, Hank Campbell, Steven Novella and Andrew Porterfield - further examine the issue.

We also feature a commentary from former USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on the ramifications of misleading non-GMO labels, an American Council on Science and Health article detailing incorrect information spread by NGOs about honeybee conservation and two pieces examining the ongoing dispute over glyphosate despite its proven safety record.

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Pesticide Action Network

Pesticide Action Network International (PAN) is the global "hub" for its network of regional centers in North America,

Stories Worth Sharing

Michelle Miller: Stonyfield apparently thinks "right to know" about GMOs doesn't require responsibility to learn the truth

Matt Ridley: Brexit policies should not stifle innovation in areas such as gene editing

Hank Campbell: New anti-GMO ad shows Stonyfield must think girls don't understand science

Steven Novella: Stonyfield triples down on its "dubious" behavior with fear-mongering video, dismissive response to critics

Tom Vilsack: Misleading non-GMO labels hurt consumer confidence in food system

Chuck Dinerstein: Cambridge paper calls out NGOs, science journalists for trumped up claims that honeybees need to be conserved

Andrew Porterfield: Stonyfield turns to kids to extend its "history of spreading misinformation" about biotechnology, organic food

Colin Stevens: Hard to believe vitriol produced by "dubious"

Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

PAN was founded in 1982 out of organized opposition to globalization, capitalism and alleged control by multinational corporations and rich national governments.

LEARN MORE about Pesticide Action Network.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

glyphosate review by International Agency for Research on Cancer

EU Policies think tank: "Baffling" that glyphosate saga rages on despite its extensive safety record

Julie Gunlock: Radical green activists' "lies" push African nations to ban GM crops that could reduce hunger

Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization official: Scientists willing to clarify president's concerns about biosafety bill

Bernard Goldstein: Europe's precautionary principle unfairly used to harm American agriculture, including GM grain

Cameron English and Kavin Senapathy: Tips for talking to people who reject "empirical scientific truths" on food and agriculture

Robert Arnason: Cargill undermines claim that it supports science by teaming up with Non-GMO Project

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee plans Tuesday hearing to review scientific integrity of International Agency for Research on Cancer

Nigeria biosafety agency reiterates commitment to ensuring safety of GM crops, criticizes activist groups

French government agencies demand proactive strategy on endocrine disruptors

Harvard researcher behind disputed bee studies claims in new paper that neonics on produce could pose risk to people

Calendar highlights

February 6	February 6-8	February 7
U.S. House committee hearing on IARC glyphosate monograph	Africa regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management	Norway Biotechnology Council public forum on GMOs
February 7	**February 13**	**February 15**
Chemical Watch webinar on European Union EDC criteria	Swiss Academy of Sciences presentation on NBTs	Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium Biotech Awards

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Jan. 8, 2018
Date: Monday, January 8, 2018 4:02:26 PM

Bonus Eventus
Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Despite the Ugandan president's rejection of a biosafety bill that had been approved by Parliament, there's still hope the measure could be passed. In this week's newsletter, separate pieces by Isaac Ongu and Arthur M. Makara examine the situation.

Two other pieces - by Wayne Parrott and Kathryn Zinke - explore the misleading claims of the Non-GMO Project and other similar labeling schemes, and Steve Savage writes for *Forbes* on the potential for a biotechnology solution to a looming banana shortage.

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In This Issue

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth (FOE) is a multinational NGO with operations in more than 80 countries. Every week, one arm or another of FOE is engaged in lobbying and public opposition to corporations, capitalism and free trade via campaigns that target GMOs and pesticides while promoting alternative agroecology and organic

Stories Worth Sharing

Wayne Parrott: Do not fall for "marketing ploy" of non-GMO labels

Isaac Ongu: Delay in approval of Ugandan biosafety bill means more suffering against pests and diseases for farmers

Arthur M. Makara: Ugandan president's concerns with biosafety bill can be addressed to ensure passage

Steve Savage: Threat to bananas could be solved with "safe, viable, scientifically sound" technology

Kathryn Pinke: "Non-GMO Project is a sham" built on consumers' lack of understanding

Don Sanders: IARC claim that glyphosate can cause cancer is "clear-cut example of subterfuge" by activist scientists

Graham Brookes: Research shows carbon emissions would significantly increase if farmers stop using glyphosate-tolerant crops

Len Rosen: Spreading of false arguments against GMOs is immoral, led by proponents of organic farming

Gwyn Morga: "Baseless fear-mongering" stalls ag biotechnology despite unblemished safety record, use in human medicine

Alex Berezow: Preferring to push its ideology, The New York Times

production philosophies. A frequent partner with other global environmental advocacy groups such as Greenpeace and Action Aid, FOE is one of the largest green political advocacy groups in the world.

Learn more about Friends of the Earth HERE.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

has " no interest in getting the science right" on biotechnology

Alison Van Eenennaam: Encouraging to hear viewers say "Food Evolution" documentary made them rethink GMOs

- Vancouver screening planned Jan. 16

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Members of Parliament work on changes to Uganda biosafety bill after rejection by president

Claim that chocolate could vanish by 2050 unless saved by CRISPR draws attention

Indian state accepting public comments on pesticide use changes in response to farmer deaths

U.S. NIEHS director claims low doses of pesticides linked to human health risks

Calendar highlights

January 8	January 9-13	January 13
President Donald Trump speaks at American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention	American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association annual conferences	International Rosa Luxemburg Conference

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From: Jay Byrne
To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!
Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 3:06:24 PM

Welcome!

Dear Caitrin,

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

You now have access to a series of tools to stay abreast on key food and agriculture issues. These include a community networking site, an issues intelligence monitoring portal and a stakeholder wiki.

If you haven't done so already, you'll need to create an account. Once your registration is confirmed, you'll be ready to access the tools below.

COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE NOW

Bonus Eventus Network Tools

Stakeholder Research

Issues Intel Monitoring

Community Forums

Calendar

Introduction

Bonus Eventus is a private social networking and communications platform for stakeholders who desire an informed, collegial and science-based public dialogue and understanding about key food- and agriculture-related issues.

The tools were developed by v-Fluence and the White House Writers Group with the support of academic, commercial, government and NGO stakeholders interested in meaningful dialogue on important food and agriculture issues.

For additional information, click here.

Stakeholder Research

Bonus Eventus, in cooperation with the nonprofit Academics Review, provides a private stakeholder research wiki with profiles on more than 1,000 individuals, organizations and coalitions seeking to influence public attitudes on food and agriculture issues.

We encourage your contributions to keep these community-edited profiles up to date with the highest quality and most current information.

Members may share individual articles from the wiki with the public, but note that in doing so, you take responsibility for the accuracy and quality of that information.

STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH WIKI

Issues Intelligence Monitoring Portal

Everyone in the Bonus Eventus Community can view a general news feed on the site's home page, and customized content feeds are available to individuals or groups.

Topic feeds include plant biotechnology, crop protection, pollinator health, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and agriculture-focused water and climate issues.

As a paid service, v-Fluence provides issues intelligence monitoring reports with expert analysis using historical data and trends.

BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

Community Forums/Networking

Bonus Eventus offers members a range of collaboration tools:

General Forum

Any member of Bonus Eventus may start a discussion thread visible to ALL members of the community.

helpful_tips_abstract.jpg

Instructions

Using the Monitoring Portal

Navigating Forums

View/add to the calendar

Editing the Stakeholder Wiki

Have a tip for us?

v-Fluence is continually working to upgrade and develop products to better serve your needs.

If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, please contact us at monitoring@bonuseventus.org.

We'd love to hear from you.

Groups

Existing organizations and informal groups may create private working spaces for collaboration and information sharing.

Training

Training information includes best practice resources for science advocacy, risk communications, news media and social media.

Issues Library

Members may share slides, background documents, images and videos with the community.

Calendar

Bonus Eventus offers a shared calendar where members can let the community know about conferences, presentations and other events.

v-Fluence topic analysts routinely update calendar items. However, any member may submit event information to be posted.

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To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Welcome!
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:05:45 PM

Welcome!

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

You're now just a click away from a wealth of knowledge on food and agriculture issues. All that's left for you to do is to set up your own personal account and password.

Register Now

You'll soon receive a separate note with more in-depth instructions on how to use the many tools included in the Bonus Eventus community, including research on noteworthy stakeholders and tracking of key media activity and activist campaigns. Some highlights are noted below

You'll also be receiving our weekly Favorable Outcomes newsletter featuring articles worth sharing.

Knowledge is Power

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

A library of background information on key players influencing food and agriculture issues - and who's funding them

ISSUES MONITORING PORTAL

Daily tracking of current events, news coverage and activist activities on food and agriculture issues

NETWORKING

Connect with other experts and influencers seeking favorable outcomes and science-based dialogue. Or find an expert in a particular field.

CALENDAR

See upcoming events of note - or let the network know of an event you're planning or attending.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you!

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Unsubscribe Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov

About our service provider

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