

FARM FOUNDATION® FORUM

**INNOVATION IN GENE EDITING AND
PLANT BREEDING:
A LOOK AT SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT
AND CONSUMER PERSPECTIVES IN FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

NOVEMBER 7, 2023



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#FarmFoundationForum





SHARI ROGGE-FIDLER

President and CEO
Farm Foundation



MEET FARM FOUNDATION

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We accelerate
PEOPLE AND IDEAS
into
ACTION.



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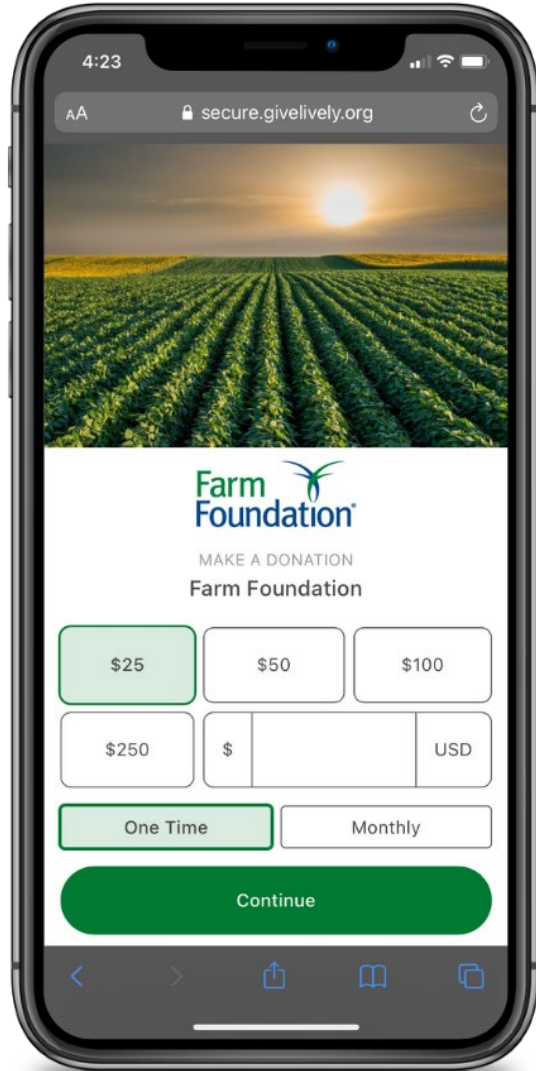
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To **build** trust and understanding at the intersections of agriculture and society.

VISION:

To **build** a future for farmers, our communities, and our world.

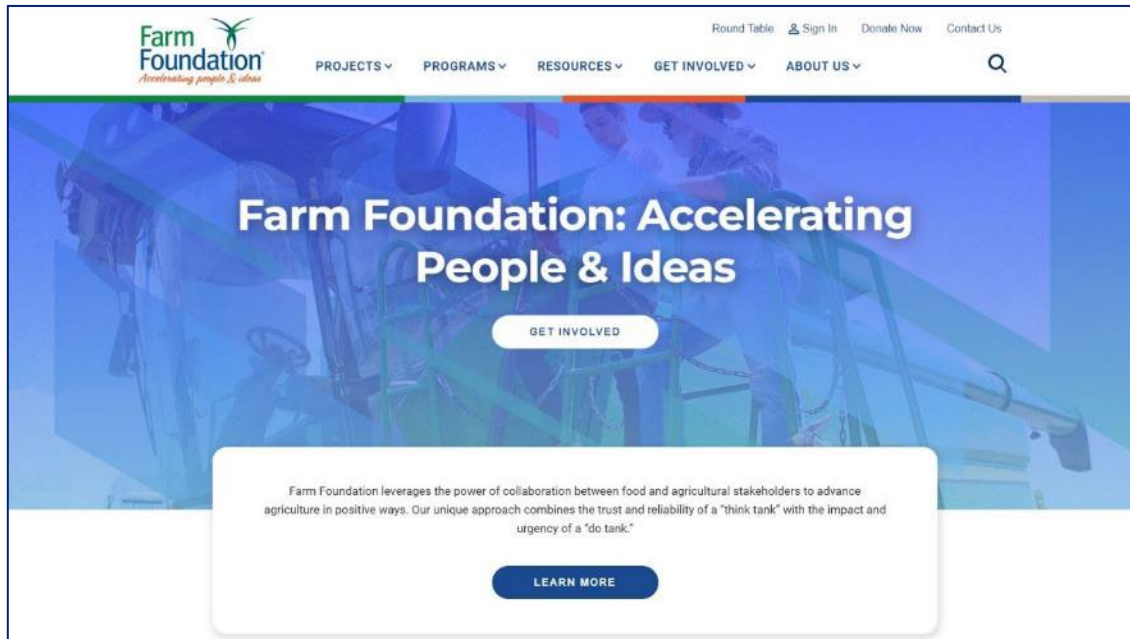
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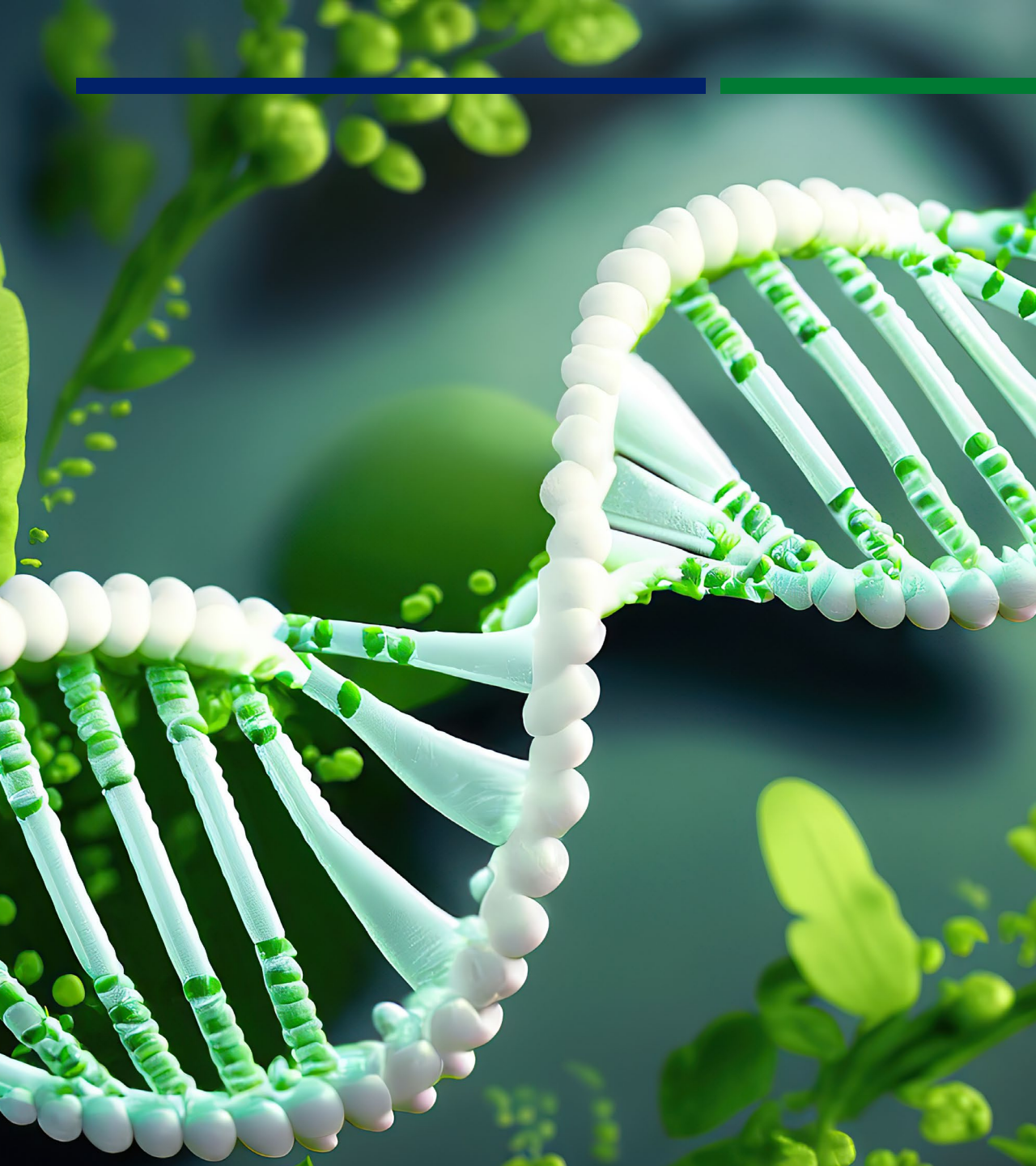
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IMPORTANT NOTES

- Submit questions by clicking on the **Q&A Button** at the bottom of your screen.
- Please **include your name and company** so questions may be contextually understood.
- Due to **time limits**, we may not be able to ask all questions submitted.
- This Forum is being recorded and will be posted on our website at **farmfoundation.org** as well as the Farm Foundation **YouTube** channel.
- Please take the **short survey** at the conclusion of the Forum.



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Vice President and Dean,
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ALLEN VAN DEYNZE, PH. D.

Director, Seed Biotechnology Center,
Associate Director, Plant Breeding Center,
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UCDAVIS

Seed Biotechnology Center



Gene Editing: An Opportunity to Play?

Allen Van Deynze,
avandeynze@ucdavis.edu

Innovations in Plant Breeding

- Understanding genetic principles (Mendel, Hardy and Weiberg; 1865-1910)
- Statistics and Experimental Design (Fisher; Snedecor; Pearson; 1920-30s, Melchinger 2005)
- Hybridization and Heterosis (Shull 1908, East 1936, Gardner 1963)
- **Biotechnology**: tissue culture, mutation breeding, **transgenics**, **gene editing**, **genome editing**, synthetic biology (1950s+)
- Speed to market technologies: doubled haploids, counter seasonal nurseries
- Genomics and bioinformatics/**machine learning** (1990s+)
- **High Throughput Phenotyping** and **Artificial Intelligence** (2010s+)
- Intellectual Property and Regulation
- A Well-Educated Workforce

Plant Breeding

a product-oriented discipline of sciences rooted in selection theory, quantitative genetics and statistics for crop improvement that encompasses an increasing number of support technologies to sustain society

Components:

Generate diversity-controlled crosses

Gene editing

GMO

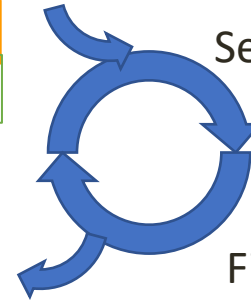
Selection

Gene editing

Varieties

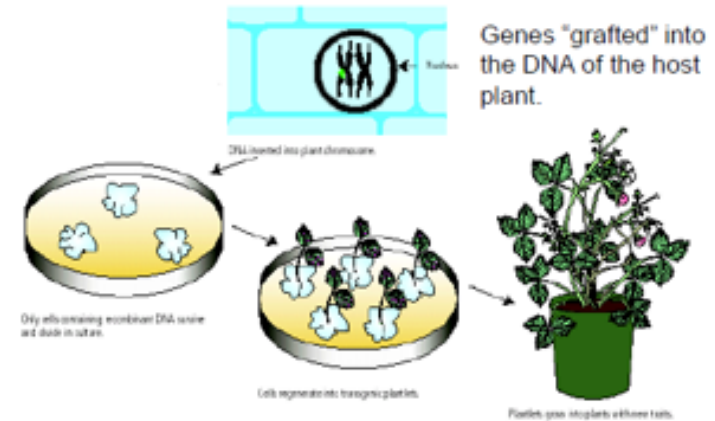
Fixing of traits

Test, test, test!



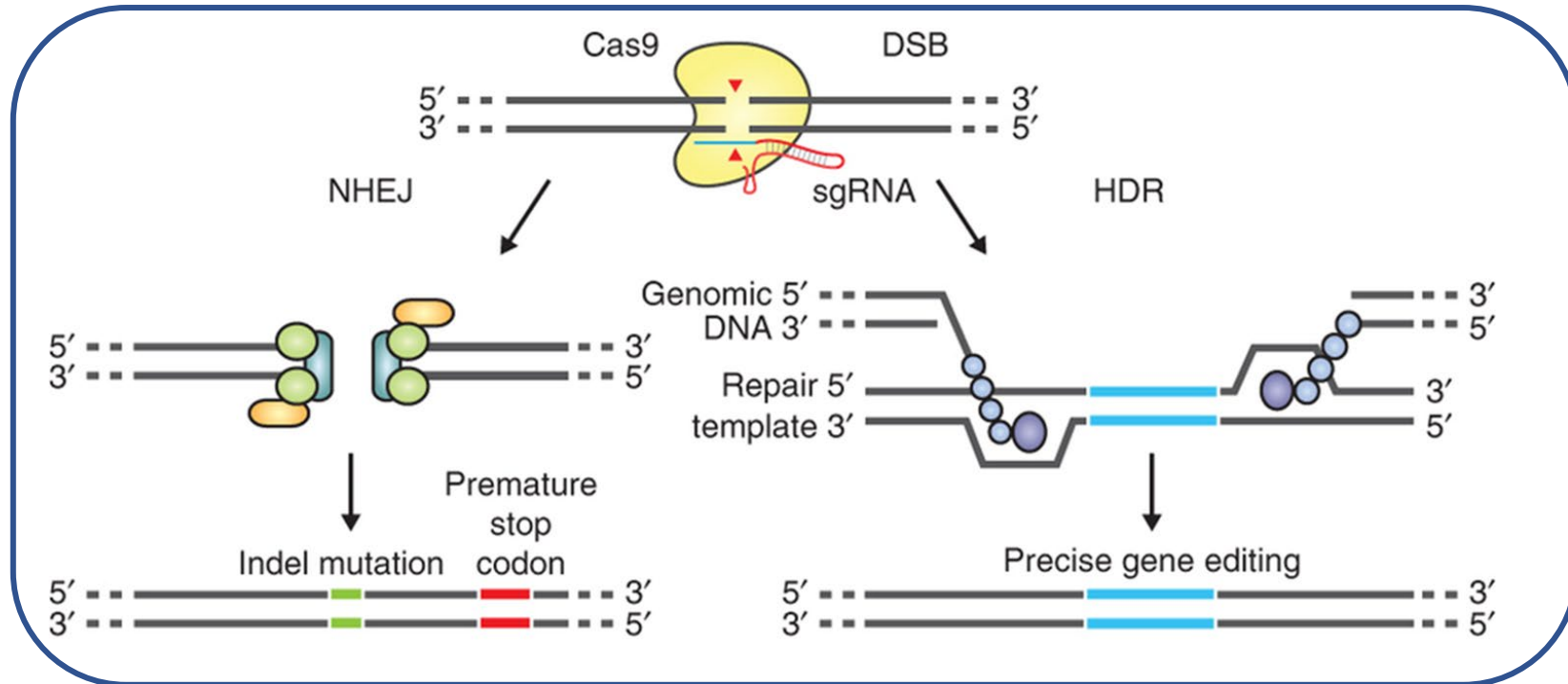
Traditional Gene Modification Technologies

- Agrobacterium Transformation
 - Chromosome integration
 - Limited hosts and genotypes
 - Requires plant regeneration
- Biolistics (gene gun)
 - Chromosome integration
 - More hosts/genotypes?
 - Requires plant regeneration
 - Multiple insertions
 - Gene fragments



Gene Editing Strategies

- Chromosome integration optional
- Expand hosts and genotypes
- May be more acceptable for regulatory and consumers



← Cell

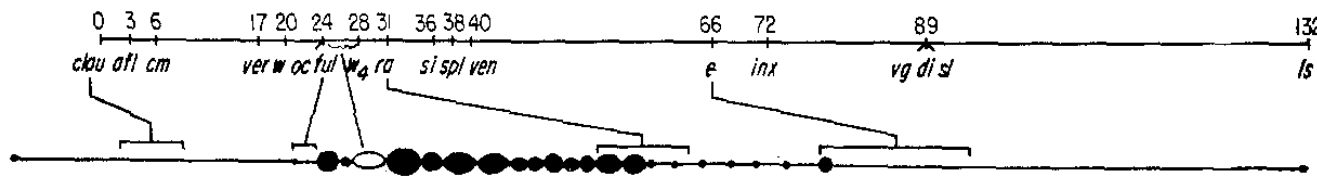
← Chromosome

Many New Gene Editing Technologies

- Alternative PAM sites—example CF1 (Cas12)
- Base editing
- Enhancer
- Repressor
- Epigenetic
- Gene stacking

What Are Gene Stacks?

- Simply the combination of genes in plants
- Most plants have >25,000 genes that confer unique combination of traits
- Plant Breeders and farmers have been “stacking” genes for 100s of years.

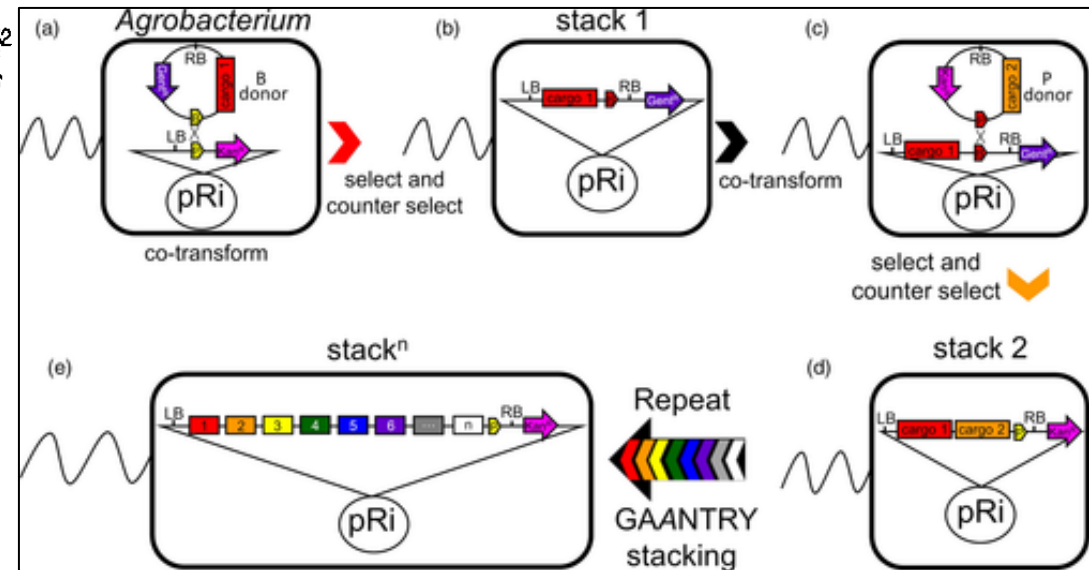


- I. *a/l (albi/olium)*. Seedlings very slow growing; cotyledons white
- II. *clau (clausa)*. Leaves more highly divided with acute serrations
- III. *cm (curly mottled)*. Strong virus-like mottling and distortion

GURDEV S. KHUSH and CHARLES M. RICK

Department of Vegetable Crops, University of California, Davis

(Received April 25, 1967)



Collier et al. *The Plant Journal*, Volume: 95, Issue: 4, Pages: 573-583, First published: 14 June 2018, DOI: (10.1111/tpj.13992)

Breeding Goals (some) for the Next 20 Years

Sustainable production of food, feed and fiber: customer driven

- Increase yields to feed an increasing population
- Increase yields per acre as acres of arable land decline
- Increase water and temperature tolerances due to climate change
- Increase disease and pest resistance as we move away from chemical controls to genetic controls.
- Improve nitrogen use efficiency and nitrogen fixation in all crops
- Enhance attributes of quality, flavor, nutrition, quality

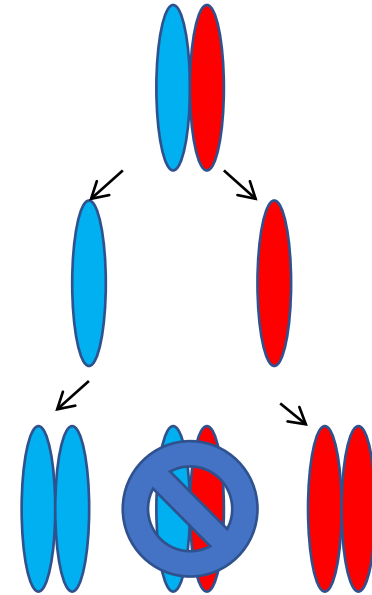
We need all of the tools!

Breeding Tools: Doubled Haploids


- Homozygosity in a single generation
- Reduced population sizes
- More accurate phenotypes

Methods

- CenH3: Engineered centromere-mediated haploids (UC Davis)
- Anther culture
- Microspore culture



Genetic modification of flavone biosynthesis in rice enhances biofilm formation of soil diazotrophic bacteria and biological nitrogen fixation

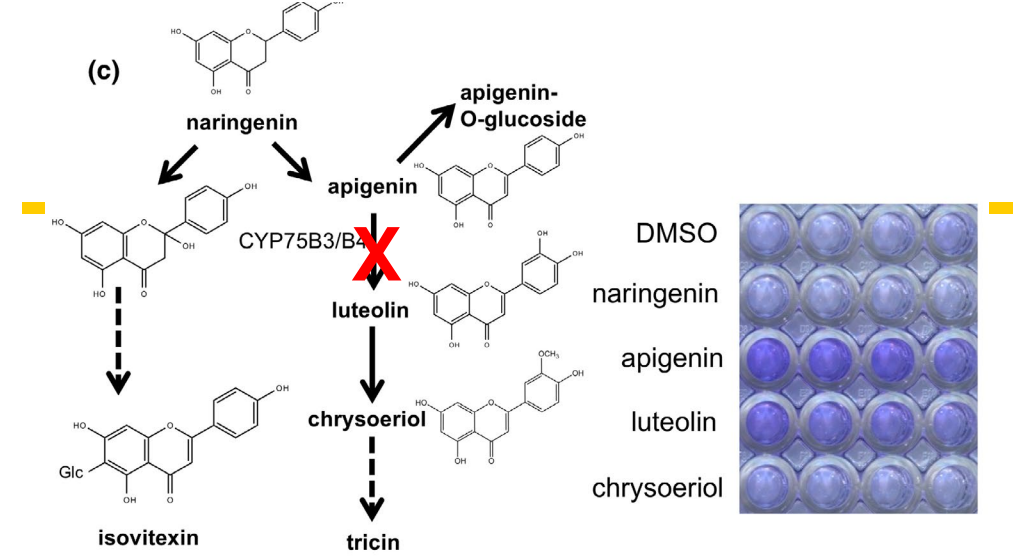
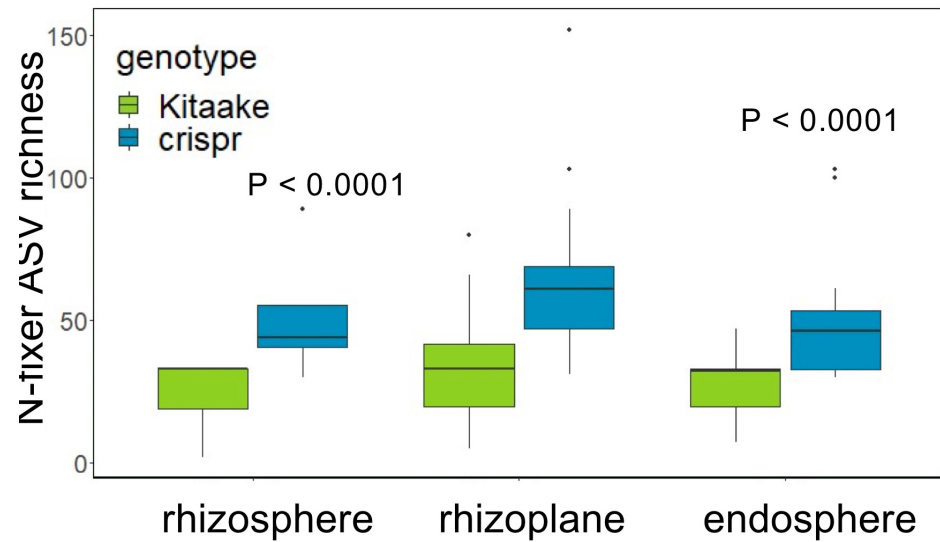
Dawei Yan¹, Hiromi Tajima¹, Lauren C. Cline², Reedmond Y. Fong³, Javier I. Ottaviani^{3,4}, Howard-Yana Shapiro¹ and Eduardo Blumwald^{1,*} 

¹Department of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis, California, USA

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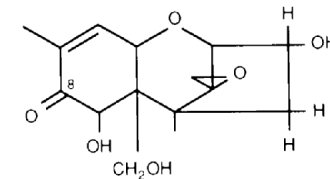
⁴Mars Inc., McLean, Virginia, USA



Food Safety Concerns in Crops

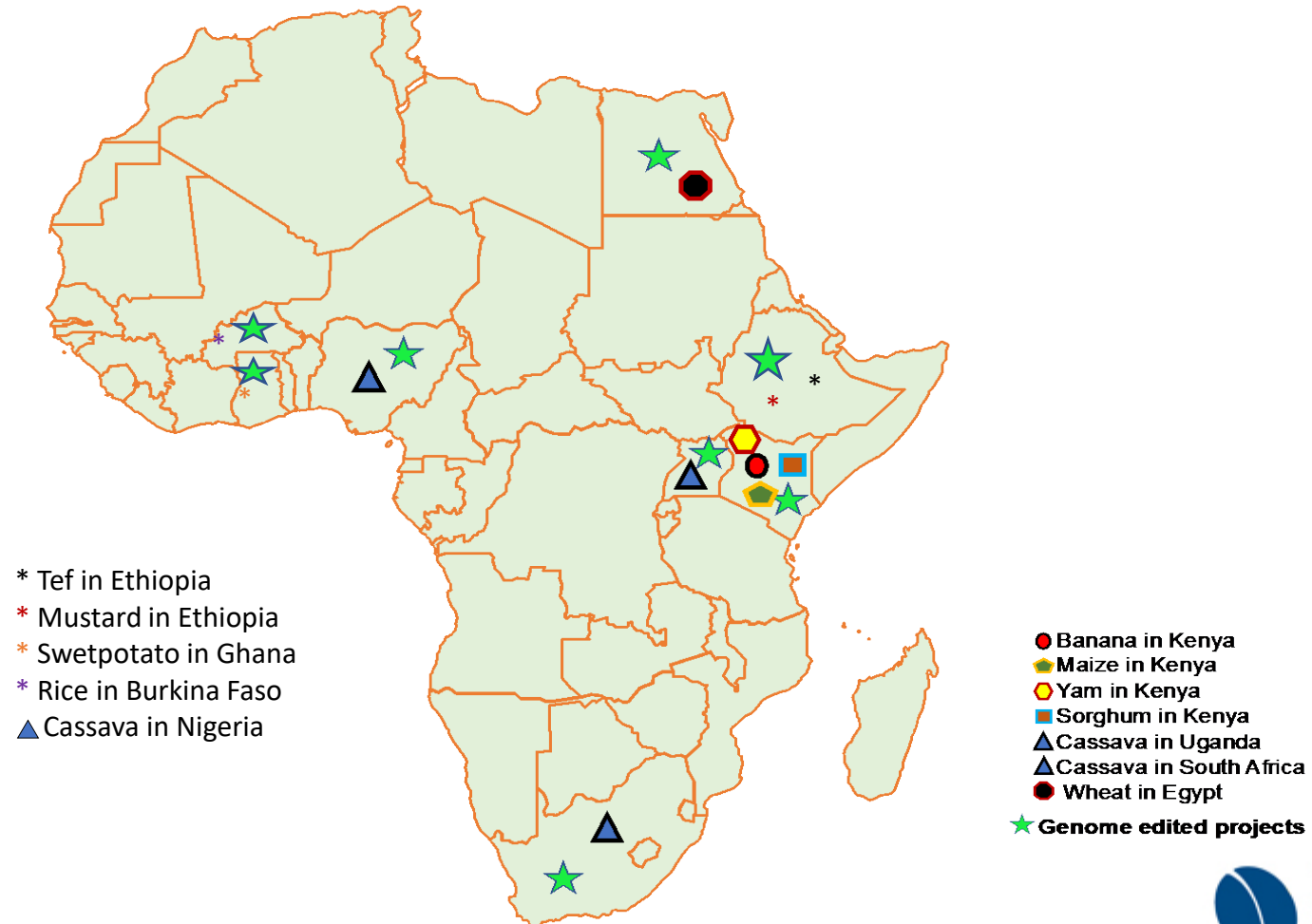
(Low probability, High Consequence)

- Mycotoxins
- Salmonella
- Pathogenic E. coli
- Listeria, etc.
- Heavy metals
- Nitrates,
- Allergens

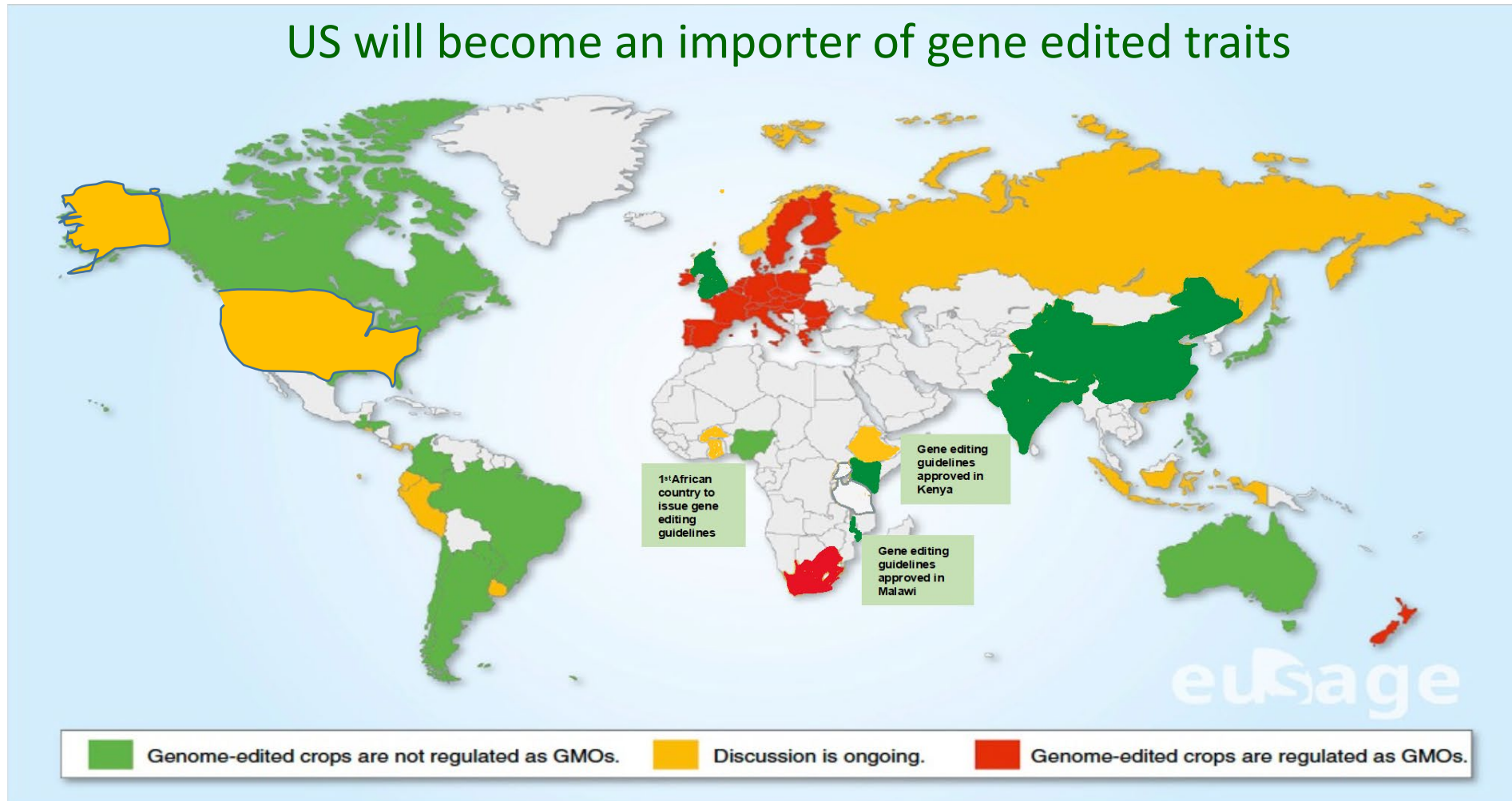


Gene Editing in Africa

- Many researchers are exploring the potential of gene editing in developing crop varieties for a better and more sustainable African Agriculture.



Global Overview of Legislation for Genome Editing



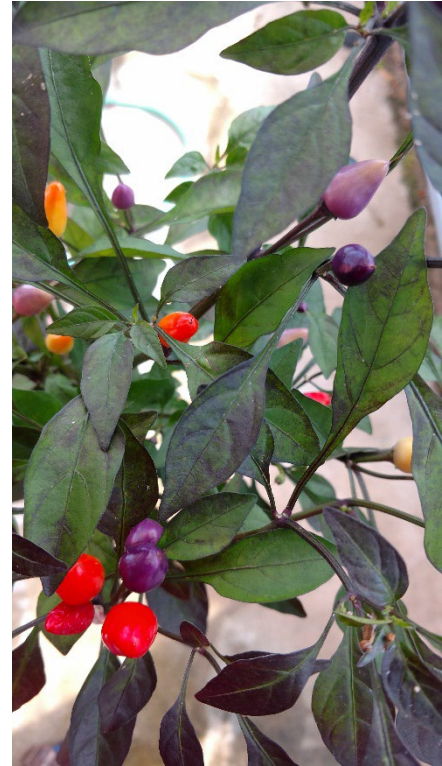
Policy Should Enable Innovation Across All Private and Public Sectors

- Policy must address all crops, not just big 5.
- Most major crops are polyploid, i.e. have duplicated genes
- Gene editing is not only knock-outs
- Breeders have stacked (pyramid) genes for a >100 years in all crops
- The biology of crops is well-documented
- Plant Breeding has 100 years of delivering safe food and products
- Policy should enable innovation across borders
- The agricultural industry is well regulated based on product

We need all of the tools!



QUESTIONS??



Allen Van Deynze, UC Davis, avandeynze@ucdavis.edu





RICHARD LAWRENCE, PH.D.

Head of Genome Editing, Yield, Disease,
and Quality Research, Bayer Crop Science



Genome editing as a tool to create targeted variation in plants –

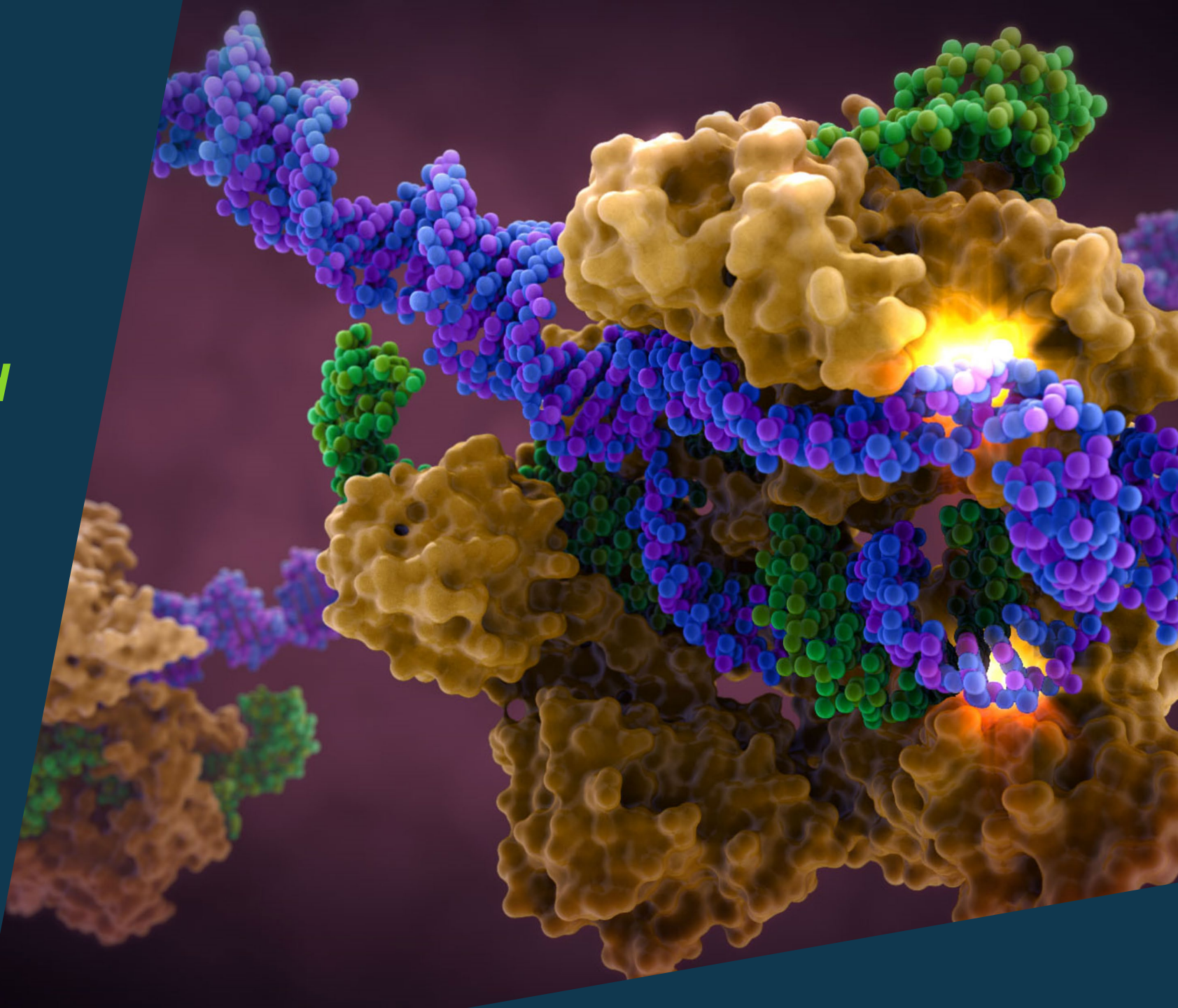


Rick Lawrence

Bayer Crop Science

Head of Genome Editing, Yield, Disease, and Quality Research

Oct 24, 2023

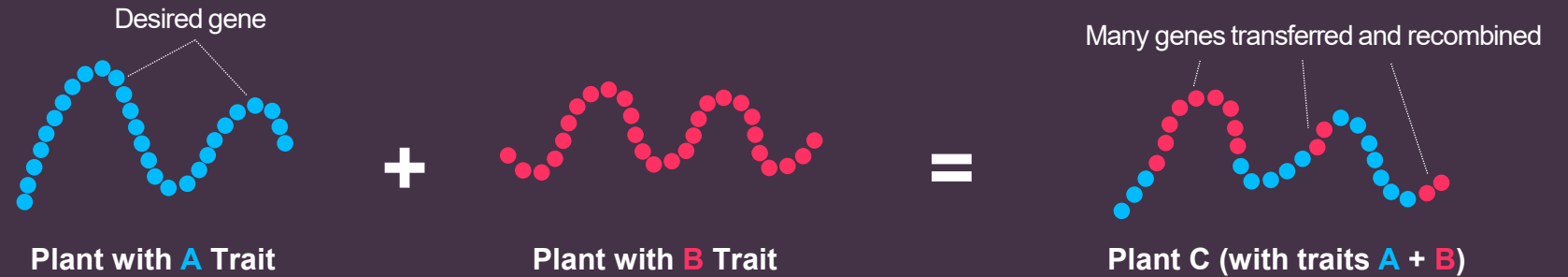




Plant science is constantly evolving

The efficiency and accuracy with which plant traits can be improved is increasing

Beginning in 10,000 BC:
Plant Breeding



Beginning in the 1990s:
Gene Editing



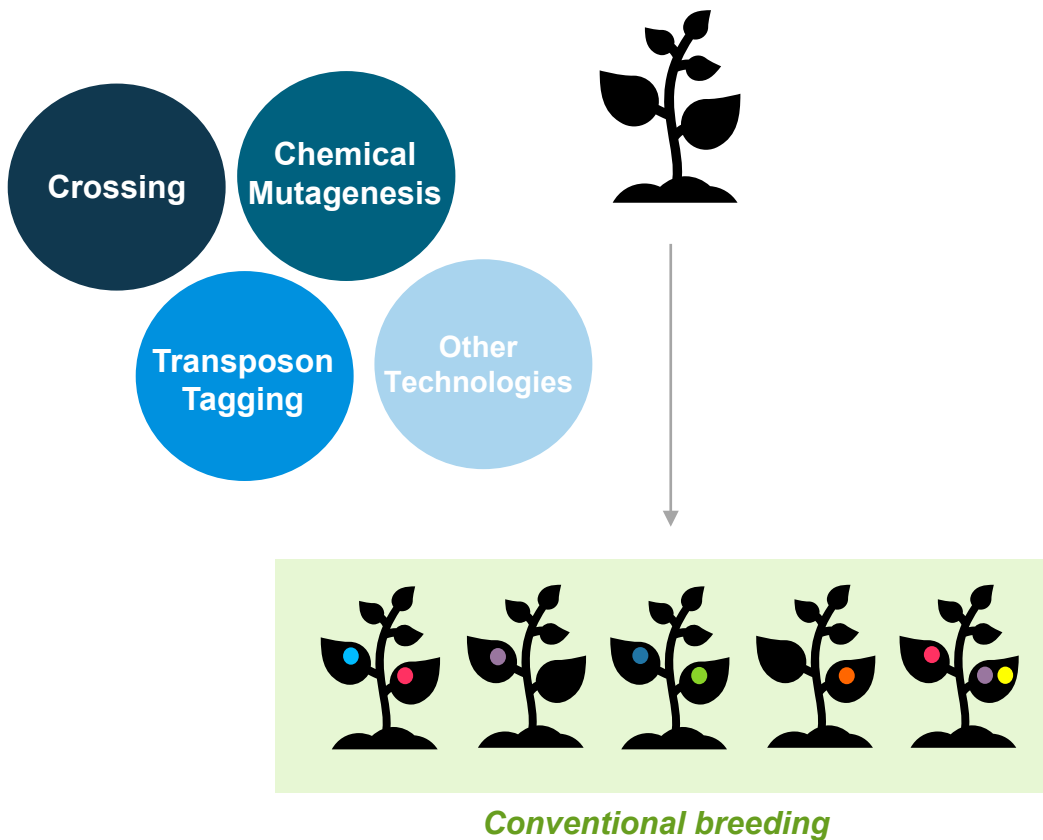
Beginning in the 1970s:
GMOs



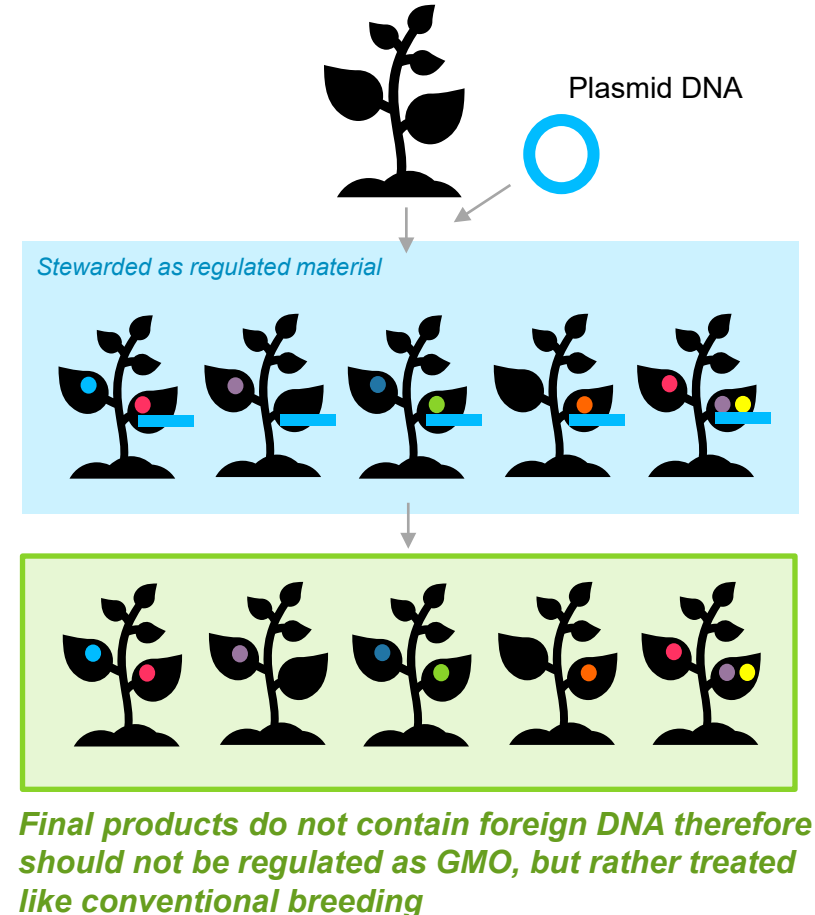
Genome editing is one of many tools to create variation, and should be regulated like tools that provide similar outcomes

Desired State: Plants without transgene/editing components are out of scope of GM regulation and treated like conventional breeding

Conventional Breeding

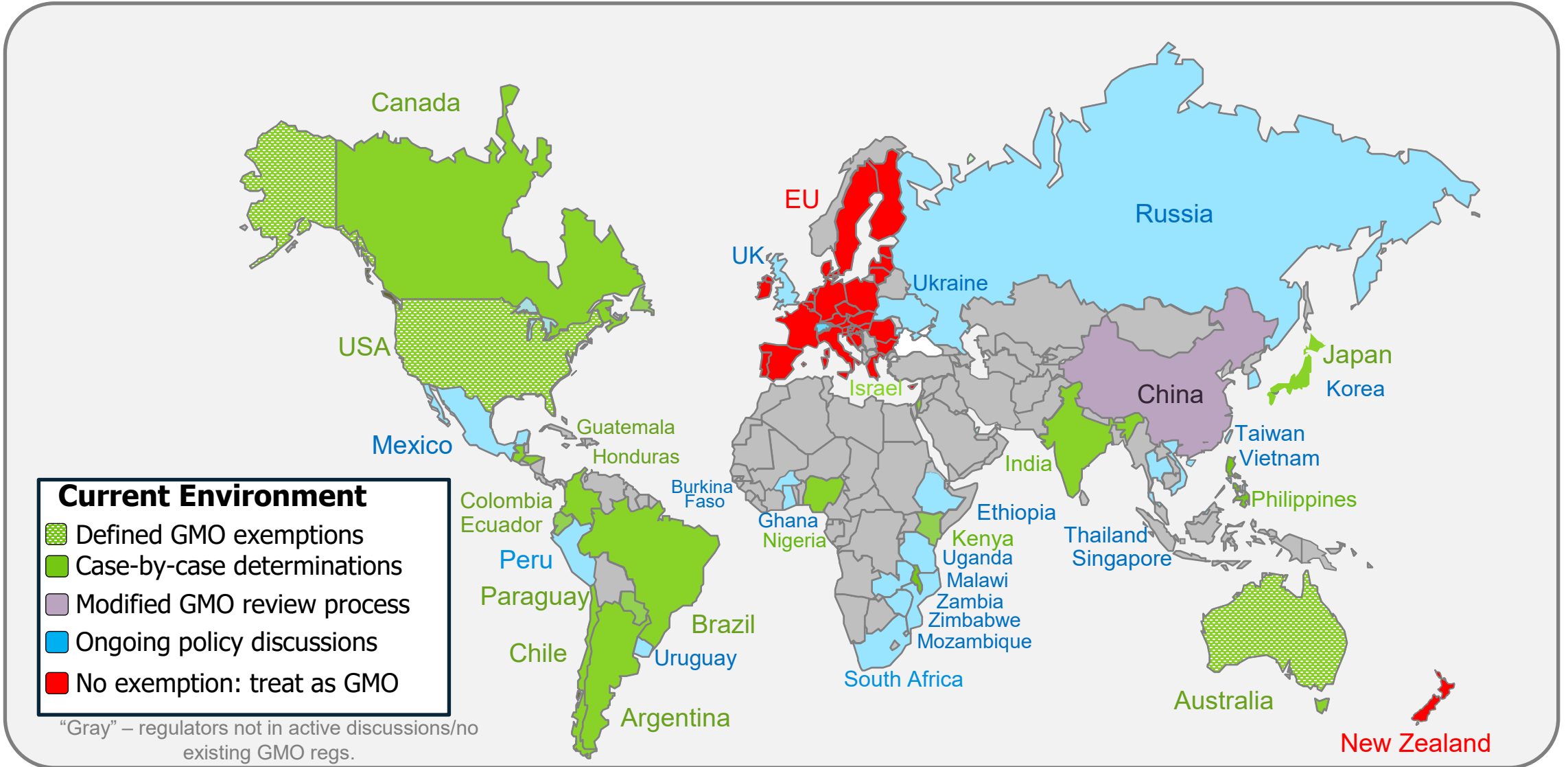


Genome Editing



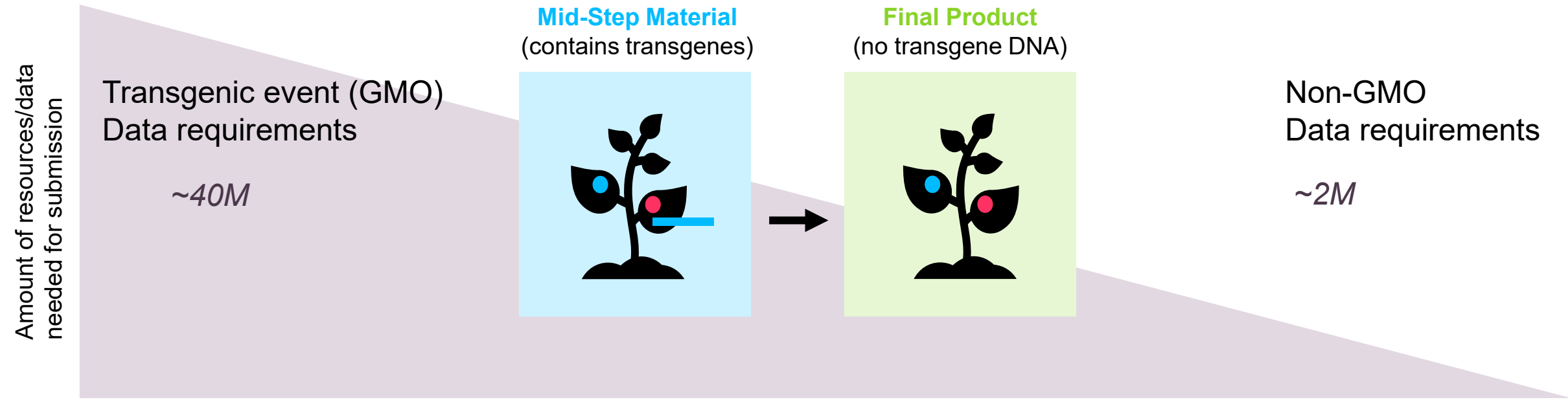


The current genome editing policy landscape is diverse and complex





The main challenge in the genome editing regulatory landscape is the unpredictable nature of timeline and requirements



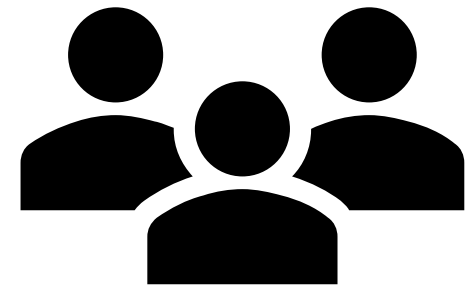
GMO or non-GMO? That is the question.



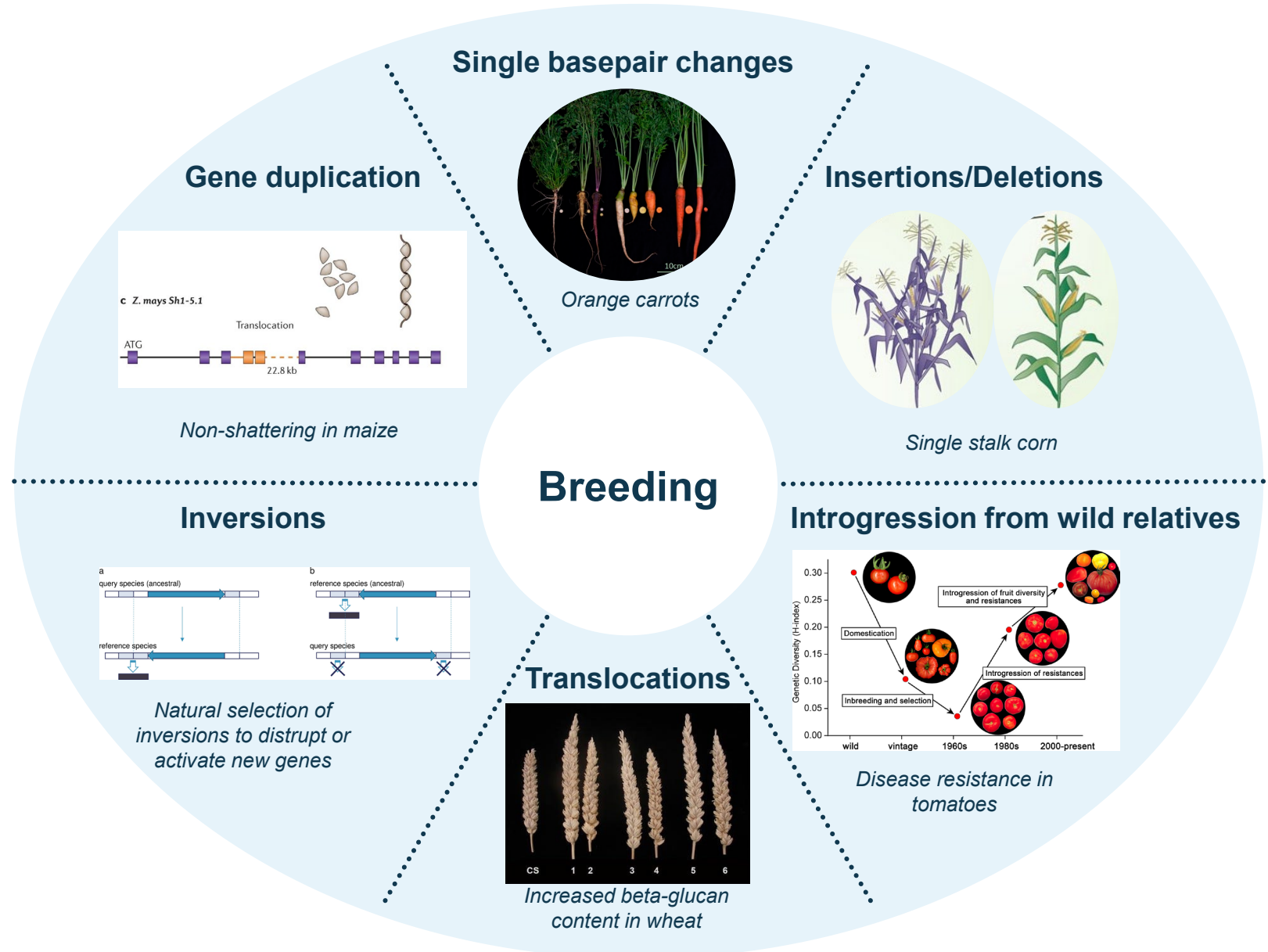
Common theme across regulatory policies around the globe

Edits are considered exempt/excluded/as-safe-as conventional if the edit

“Can be generated through conventional breeding”



Many types of molecular changes occur naturally to enable trait differences and breeding advancements



Danilova et al. Theoretical and Applied Genetics. (2017)
 Meyer and Purugganan. Nature Reviews Genetics (2013)
 Tsiantis, M. Nature Genetics 43, 1048–1050 (2011).
 Schouten et al. Frontiers in Plant Science Volume 10 (2019).
 Hirabayashi and Owens. Evolution. 77:4, 1117-1130. (2023).
 Ellison et al. Genetics. 210:1497-1508. (2018)



Naturally occurring genetic changes are commonly introduced during domestication and breeding

These modifications happened without knowledge of the underlying genetic changes

Genetic underpinnings were all discovered posthoc

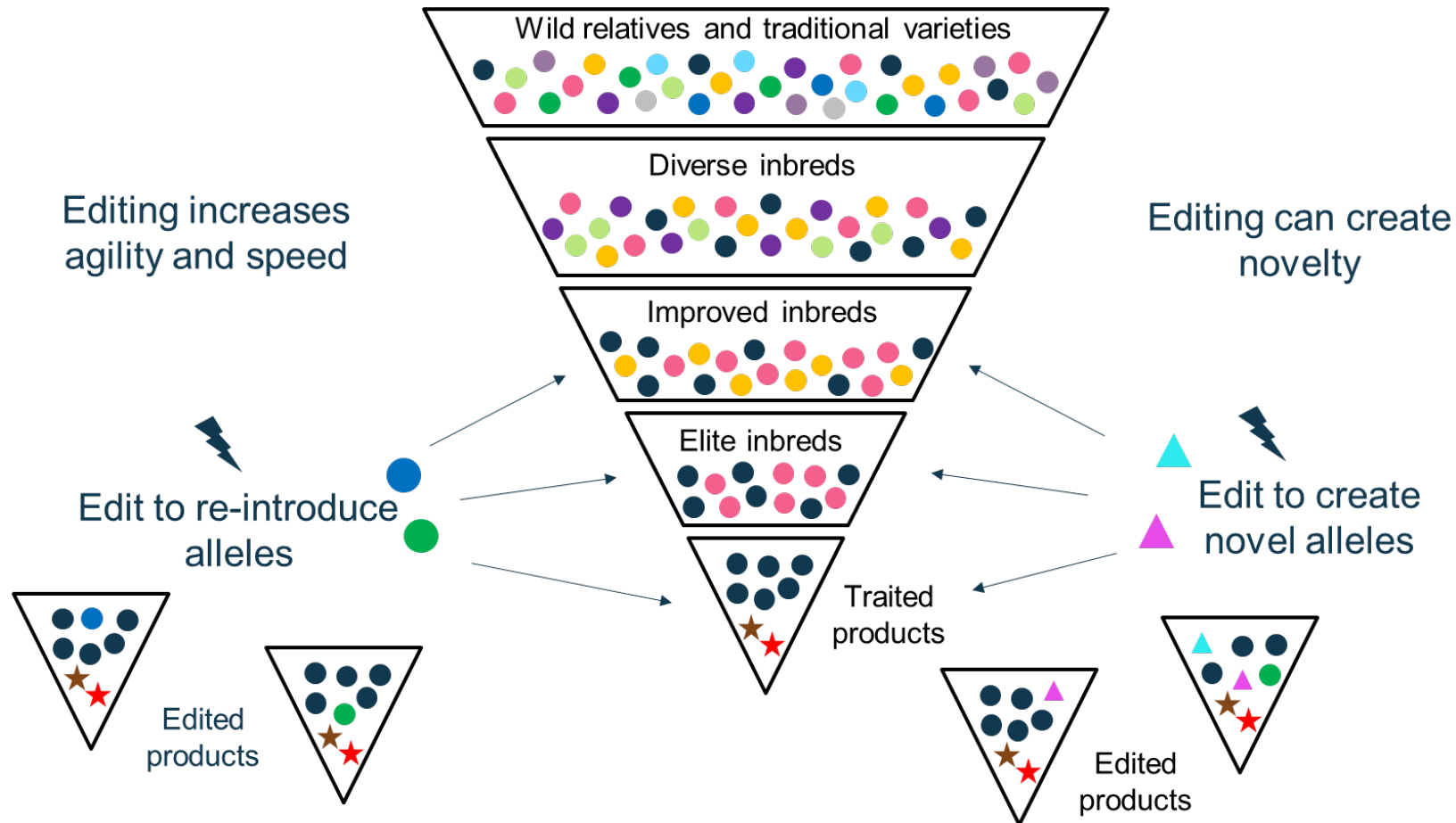
Table 1. Examples of naturally occurring genetic changes common in plants and the resulting characteristic.

| Genetic change | Genotypic or phenotypic example | Reference |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Transposable elements (transposons) | White grapes, blood oranges | Lisch (2013) |
| | >25,000 unique insertions detected across 31 varieties of soybean | Tian et al. (2012) |
| | Yellow maize | Palaisa et al. (2003) |
| | >50 new inserts of a transposon per rice plant per generation | Naito et al. (2006) |
| | Elongated tomato fruit | Xiao et al. (2008) |
| | Round or wrinkled peas (Mendel) | Ellis et al. (2011) |
| | 2 million transposons exchanged between higher plants | El Baidouri et al. (2014) |
| Organellar DNA in nuclear DNA | Gain and loss of mitochondrial DNA common to maize inbred lines | Lough et al. (2008) |
| | Gain and loss of chloroplast DNA common to maize inbred lines | Roark et al. (2010) |
| Bacterial genes | Expression of several bacterial genes in sweet potatoes | Kyndt et al. (2015) |
| Crossing with wild relatives | >60 wild relatives have been used for >100 characteristics (80% involve pest or disease resistance) in 13 crops | Hajjar and Hodgkin (2007) |
| | Dozens of alien genes used in wheat breeding | Jones et al. (1995) |
| Pararetroviruses | Stable viral DNA in rice genome | Liu et al. (2012) |
| | Stable viral DNA in tomato (previously also seen in potato) | Staginnus et al. (2007) |
| Florendoviruses | Stable integrations in all plants | Geering et al. (2014) |
| Insertions and deletions | Submergence-tolerant rice | Xu et al. (2006) |
| | Dwarf sorghum | Multani et al. (2003) |
| | Yellow soybean seeds | Tuteja et al. (2004) |
| Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) | Maize proteins (300–400 amino acids long) from 2 alleles differ by 3–4 amino acids | Tenaillon et al. (2001) |
| | Maize genome has 55 million SNPs | Gore et al. (2009) |
| | Green Revolution gene has 2 SNPs for dwarf wheat | Peng et al. (1999) |
| | One SNP caused loss of shattering in domestic rice | Konishi et al. (2006) |
| | Tall or short pea plants (Mendel) | Ellis et al. (2011) |
| | 7 new SNPs created per meiosis per billion base pairs | Ossowski et al. (2010) |
| Presence, absence, or copy number of genes | 856 wild-type soybean genes absent in cultivated varieties (and >186,000 DNA insertions or deletions) | Lam et al. (2010) |
| | >10 ⁶ SNPs, 30,000 insertion or deletions, and a few large chromosomal deletions (>18 genes) in 6 elite maize varieties | Lai et al. (2010) |
| | Copy number variation relates to soybean cyst nematode resistance | Cook et al. (2012) |
| | Pinot Noir, Corvina, and Tannat wine grapes have 1873 genes not found in other wine grapes | Da Silva et al. (2013) |
| | Only 81% of <i>Brassica</i> genes are always present in the same number | Golicz et al. (2016) |
| | 2500 genes found only in either B73 or PH207 | Hirsch et al. (2016) |
| | <i>G. soja</i> genotypes can vary by 1000 to 3000 gene families from each other | Li et al. (2014) |

Glenn et al 2017. Crop Science

“Editing to Breed” is where genome editing can make the highest impact to drive innovation and advance agriculture

Fully incorporating editing in various aspects of the breeding pipeline





Thank
you







FAN-LI CHOU, PH. D.

Senior Vice President, Scientific Affairs and Policy,
American Seed Trade Association

INNOVATION IN GENE EDITING AND PLANT BREEDING

Farm Foundation Forum

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American Seed Trade Association

WWW.Betterseed.org



American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)

Founded in 1883. Represent all sectors of the seed industry

- A-Z (Alfalfa to zucchini)
- Fruits, Vegetables, Row Crops, Field Crops, Ornamentals
- Conventional, organic, biotech

Nearly 700 members, including:

- Integrated seed companies
- Seed distributors
- Breeding and Licensing companies (genetics)
- Seed treatments
- Machinery
- Testing facilities
- Universities



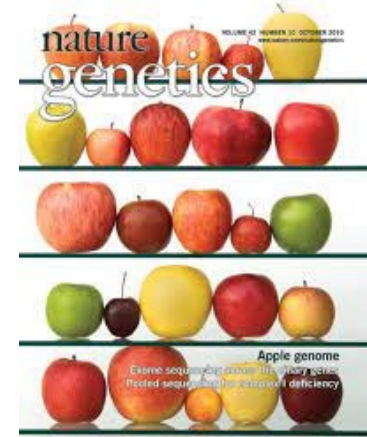
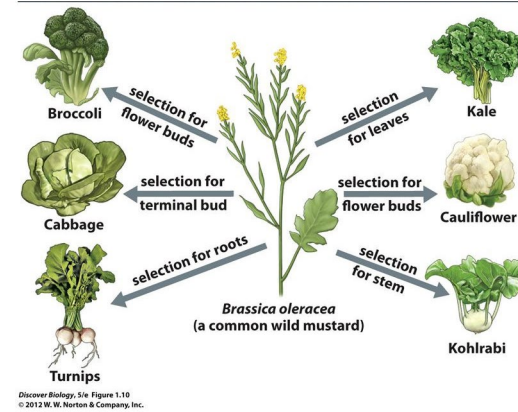
Expressions of genetic variability



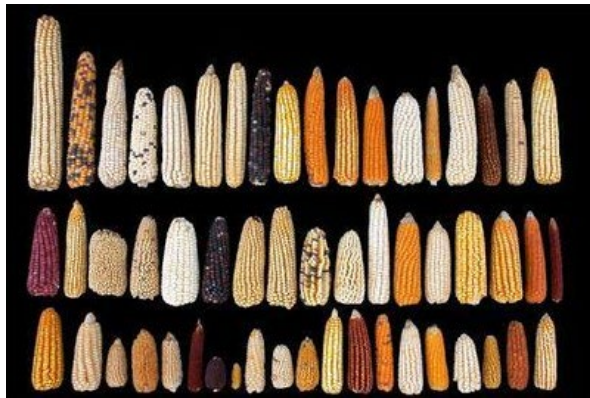
PHIL SIMON, UW-MADISON, USDA-ARS



CHANNA PRAKASH



USDA-ARS



CIMMYT



JIANGSHU SU HORTICULTURE RESEARCH 10CT2010 DALIA TAHER FRONTIERS PLANT SCIENCE 25AUG2010



MILESTONES IN PLANT BREEDING

CROP DOMESTICATION

Farmers select the best wild species to create crops

10,000 BC



Domestication of wheat



HYBRID BREEDING

Crossing two genetically different individuals to develop better performing hybrid

More vigorous hybrid corn

PLANT BREEDING BASED ON CROSS BREEDING

Development of improved varieties by combining good characteristics from two parents

1940



Blast-resistant rice

MUTAGENESIS

Developing new genetic diversity by exposing crop plants to chemical agents or radiation

1926



Insect-resistant cotton

GMO

Introducing foreign genes into the DNA of a plant

1994



Barley resistant to yellow dwarf virus

MARKER-ASSISTED SELECTION

Locating desirable traits in a plant for efficient selection and breeding



Waxy corn

TARGETED BREEDING

Using modern tools such as genome editing for more targeted breeding

PLANT BREEDING BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION

Development of improved varieties by working directly with the DNA

1986

2000

2003

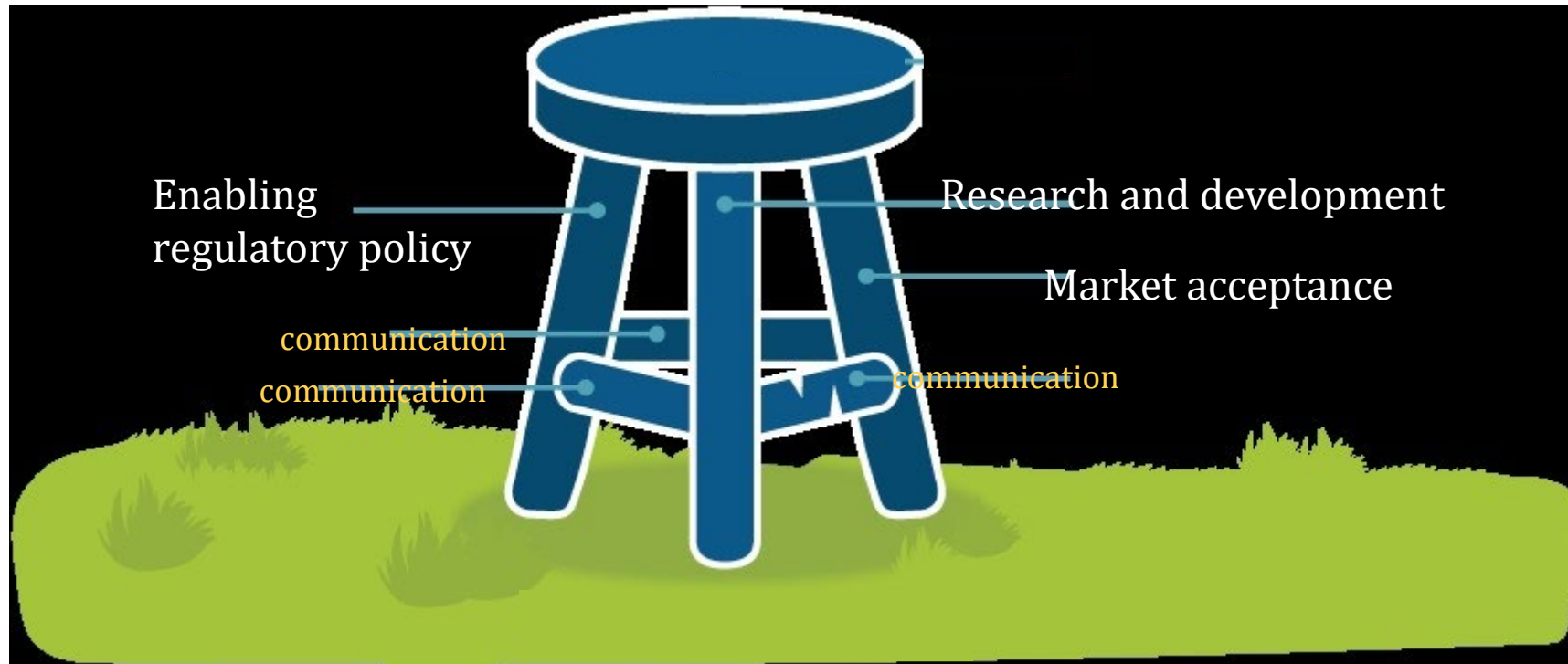
now

future

U.S. Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Building a three legged-stool



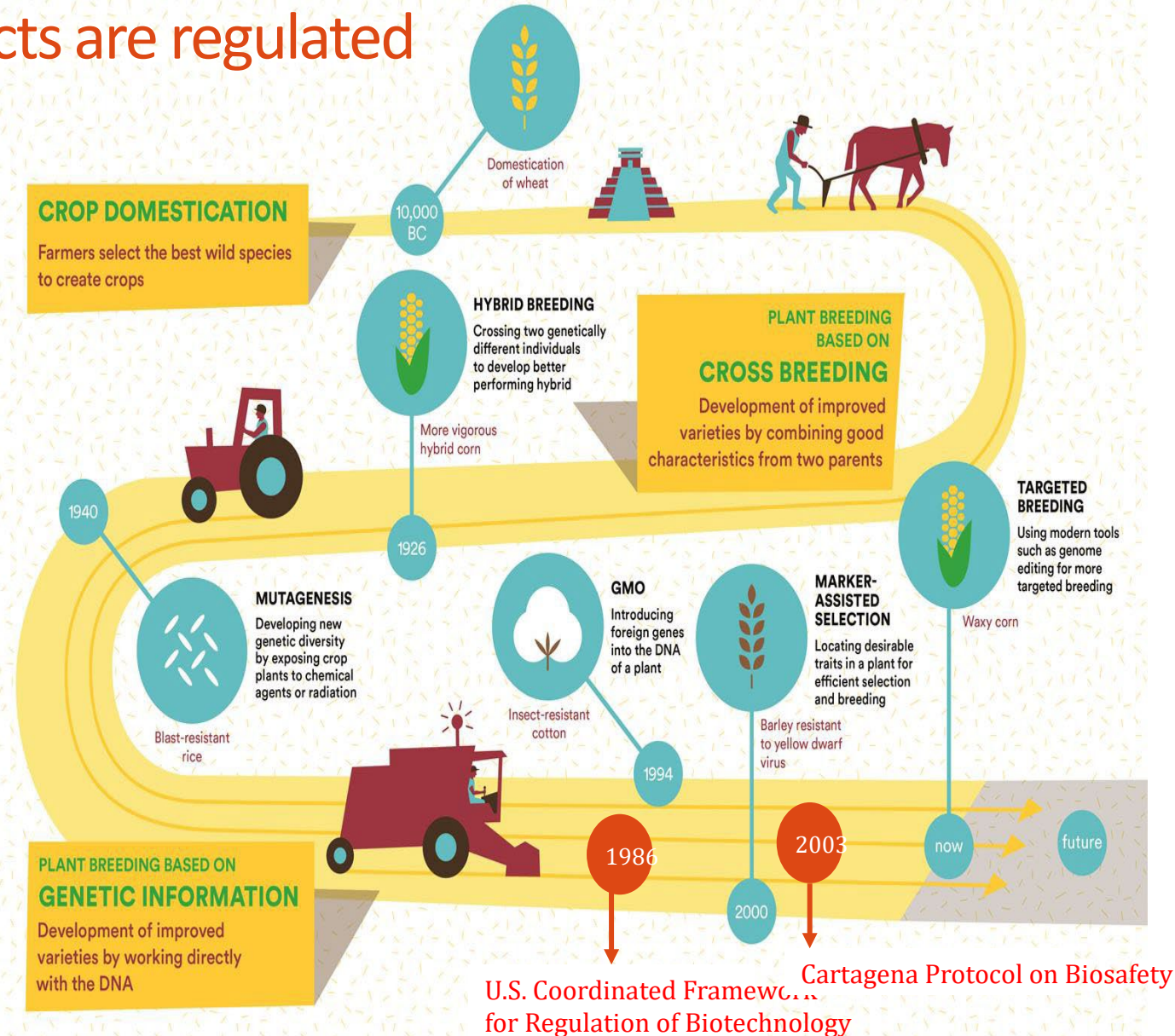
All new plant varieties & their products are regulated

Breeding method neutral

- Variety registration
- Seed laws and regulations
- Phytosanitary regulations
- General environmental safety/liability laws & regulations
- Food/feed laws and regulations

Breeding technology specific

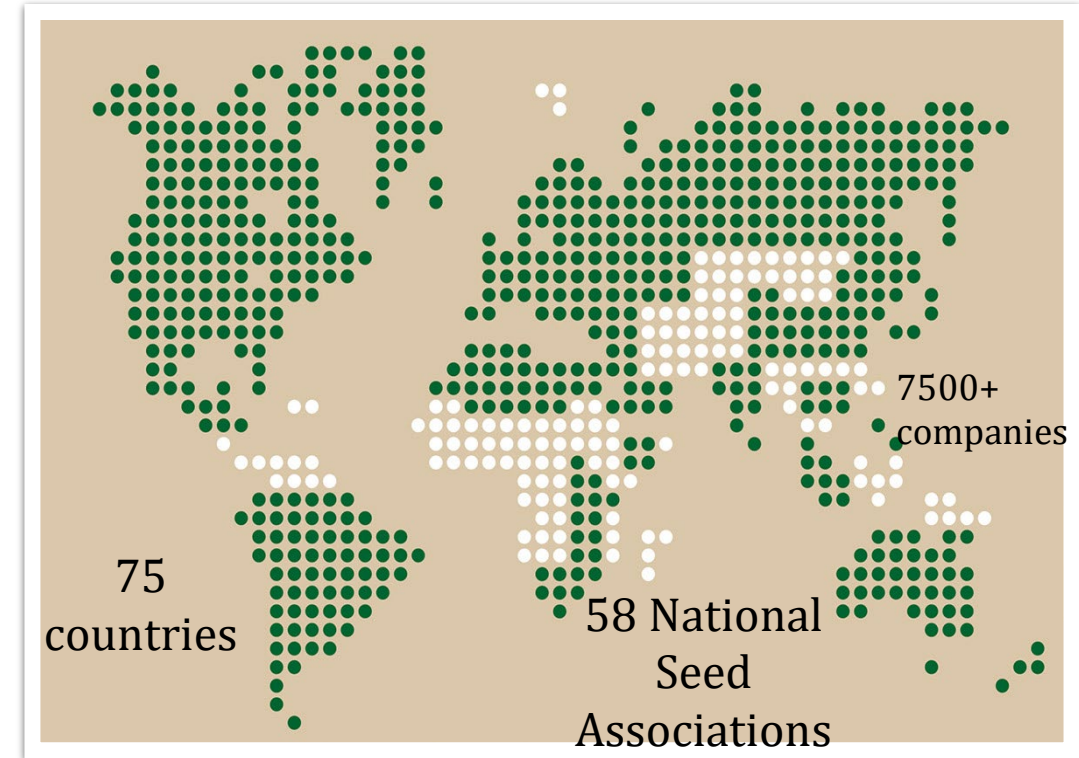
- **GMO regulations**



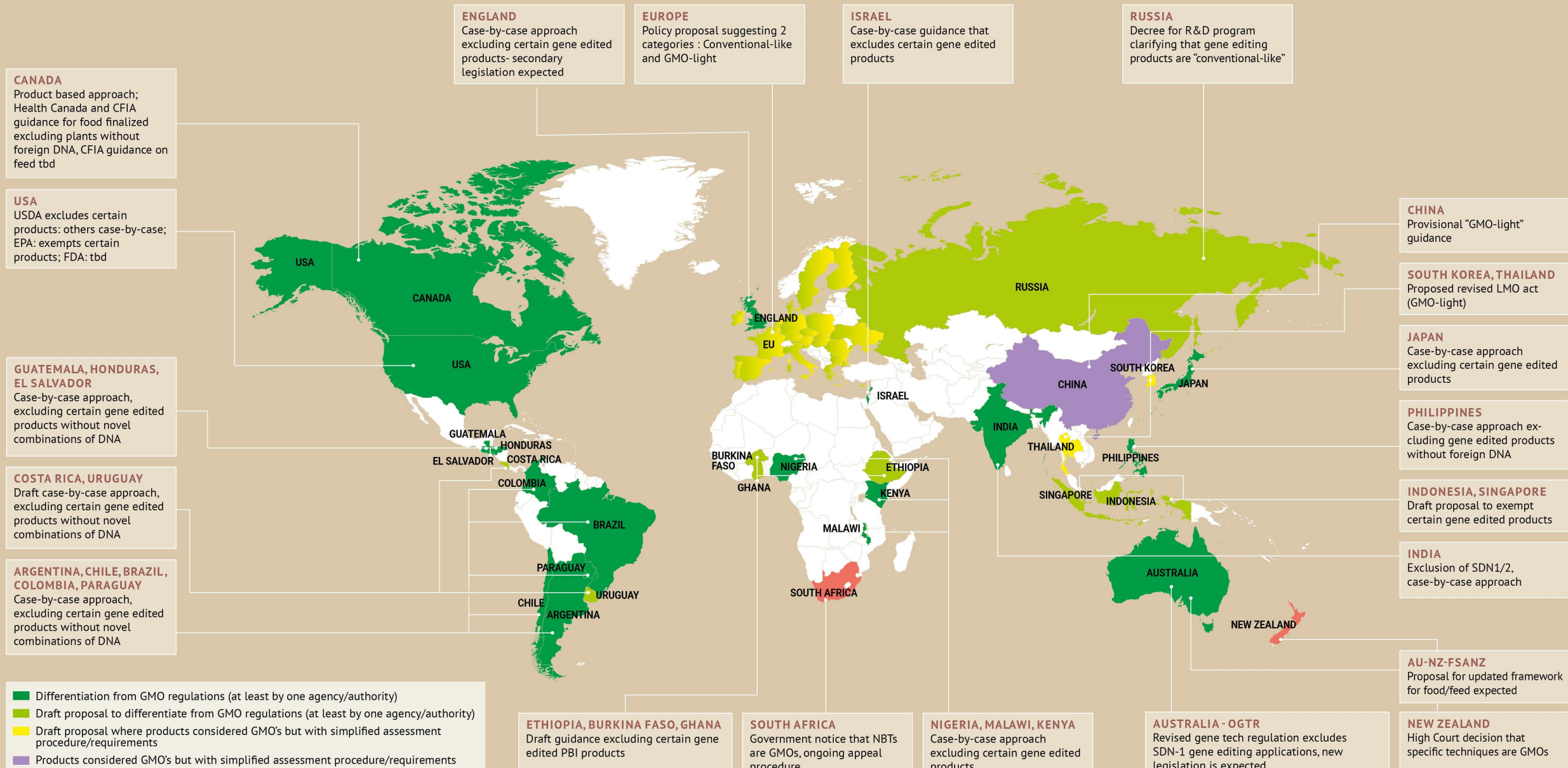
Should genome edited varieties be regulated as GMOs?

Underlying Principle

*“Plant varieties developed through the latest breeding methods **should not be differentially regulated** if they are similar or indistinguishable from varieties that could have been produced through earlier breeding methods or can be found in nature.*



Enabling Regulatory Policy

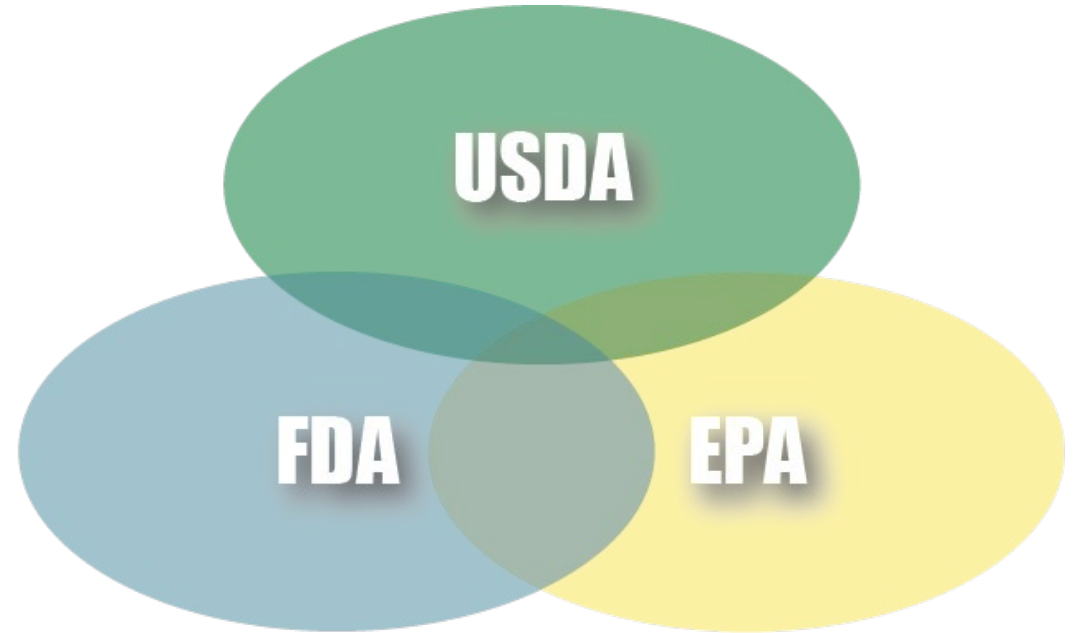


International Policy: General Observations

- Growing alignment in recognizing that not all gene edited plants should be treated as GMOs (e.g., no foreign DNA in final product)
- Case-by-case consultation process
- Many countries allow for consultation at early-stage development (at product conception stage)
- Regional harmonization are underway (e.g., Central and South America)

US Coordinated Framework

- **USDA:** Importation, interstate movement, environmental release
- **EPA:** Plant incorporated protectant
- **FDA:** Foods derived from new plant varieties



Products of Biotechnology (plants), regulated based on the intended use.

USDA regulation 7CFR340 (May 2020)

Exemptions

(voluntary confirmation process)

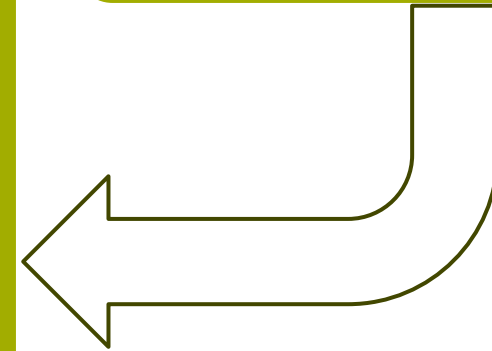
A plant that contains a *single* modification of a type in *one* of the following three categories is exempt from regulation:

1. A change resulting from cellular repair of a targeted DNA break in the absence of an externally provided repair template; or
2. A targeted single base pair substitution; or
3. Introduction of a gene known to occur in the plant's gene pool, or a change in a targeted sequence to correspond to a known allele of such a gene or to a known structural variation present in the gene pool.

Opportunity to petition to add new exemptions

Plant-trait-mode of action (PTMoa) already reviewed and determined not subject to the regulations.

Regulatory Status Review



EPA oversight of plant incorporated protectant (PIP) (July 2023)

Exemptions

PIPs created through conventional breeding

Loss of function PIPs

Certain PIPs created through genetic engineering from a sexually compatible plant

- Mandatory notification
- 5 years record keeping

- Mandatory notification and confirmation
- 5 years record keeping

No limit on # of PIP per plant

Registration

Challenges in the US system – inconsistent exemption scope, process

USDA APHIS BRS (May 2020)

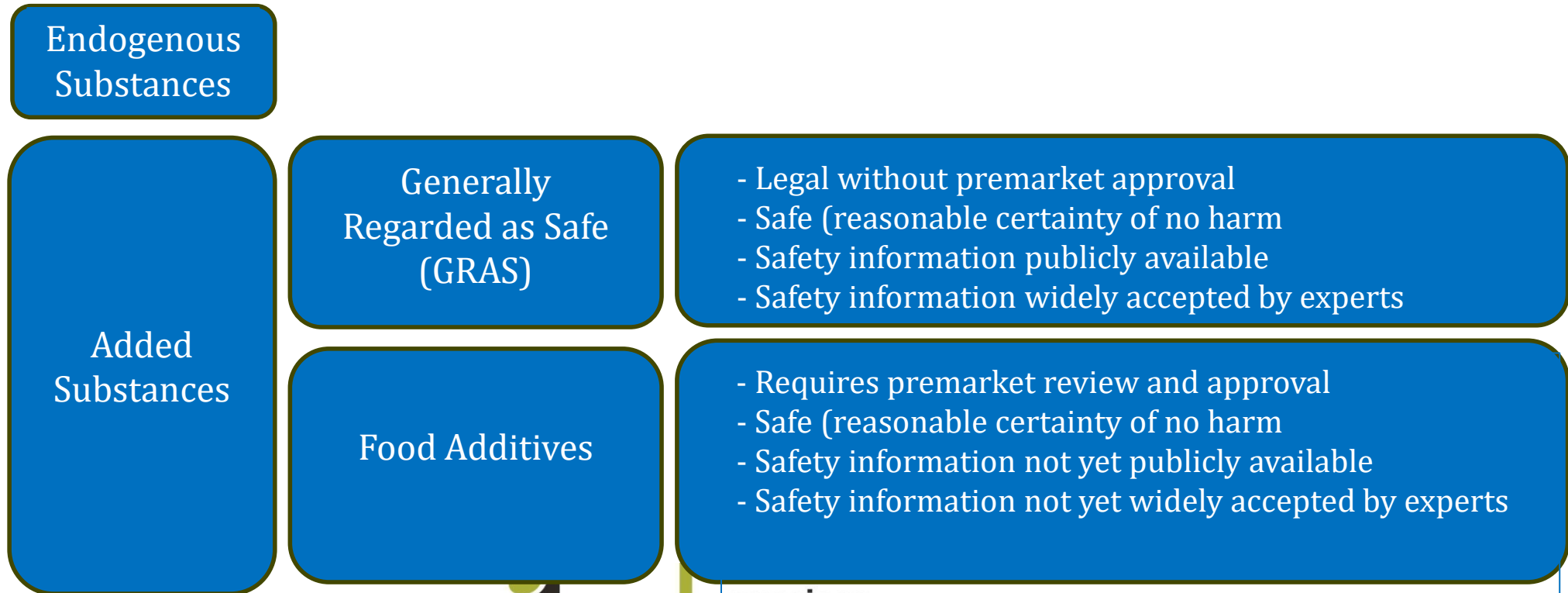
- Voluntary confirmation of exemptions
- Single modification on one pair of chromosome
- Doesn't apply to multiplexing of modifications
- Can add new exemption categories

EPA (July 2023)

- Mandatory confirmation for some exemptions; mandatory notification for others
- Limited to “identical substance”, matching regulatory regions, “matching sequence to native allele”
- Can apply to multiplexing of modifications
- No easy way to add exemption categories.

FDA: applies to all foods

- Food must be safe
- Labeling must be truthful and not misleading



asta

american
seed trade
association

FDA: Foods derived from new plant varieties

- 1992 Statement of Policy for Foods Derived from New Plant Varieties
 - *applied to all foods derived from all new plant varieties, regardless of the methods used to develop the varieties*
 - *Foods from new plant varieties must be as safe as comparable foods*
- Guidance on Consultation Procedures Foods Derived From New Plant Varieties
 - a set of procedures for voluntary premarket food safety consultations*
- In 2017, the FDA published Request for Information “Genome Editing in New Plant Varieties Used for Foods”

Take home messages – Regulatory landscape

- Regulatory trend internationally – differentiation genome edited products from GMO
- Path to market – visible but with challenges
 - Regulatory scheme in major markets still TBD (China, Europe)
 - Difference in implementation
 - Difference in timeline for decision making
- Regulatory leadership not the same
 - South America
 - Japan
 - Canada

Thank you!







ALISON VAN EENENNAAM, PH.D.

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Department of Animal Science,
University of California, Davis

Global Status of Gene Edited Food Animals and their Products

Alba Ledesma (Post-doc)

Alison Van Eenennaam

Professor of Cooperative Extension

Animal Biotechnology and Genomics

Department of Animal Science

University of California, Davis, USA

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ANIMAL SCIENCE

Email: alvaneennaam@ucdavis.edu

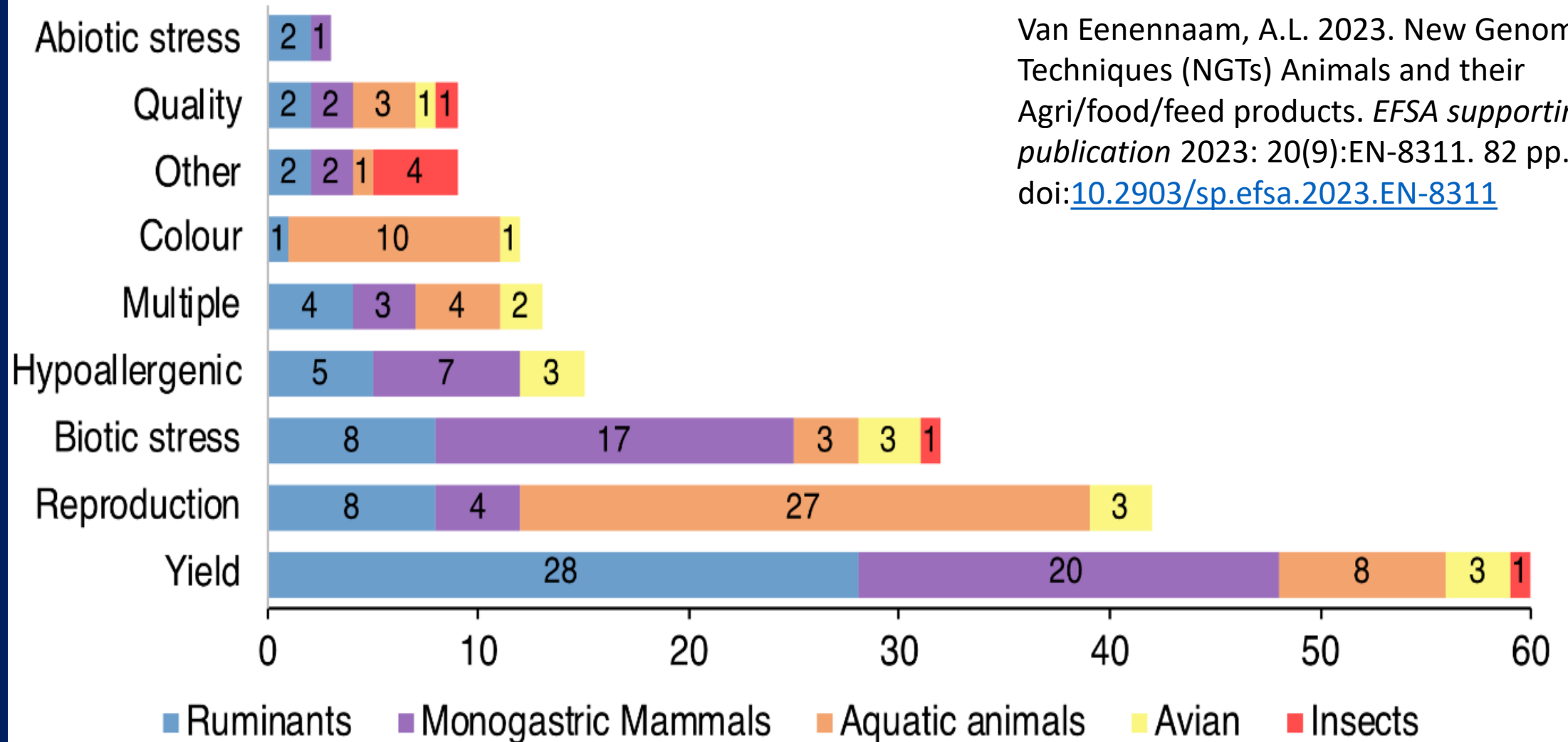
Twitter:  **@BioBeef**

BLOG: <https://biobeef.faculty.ucdavis.edu>

WEBSITE: <https://animalbiotech.ucdavis.edu>



A recent literature review found 195 English-language category peer-reviewed publications producing gene edited food animals for agriculture – the purpose breakdown is below

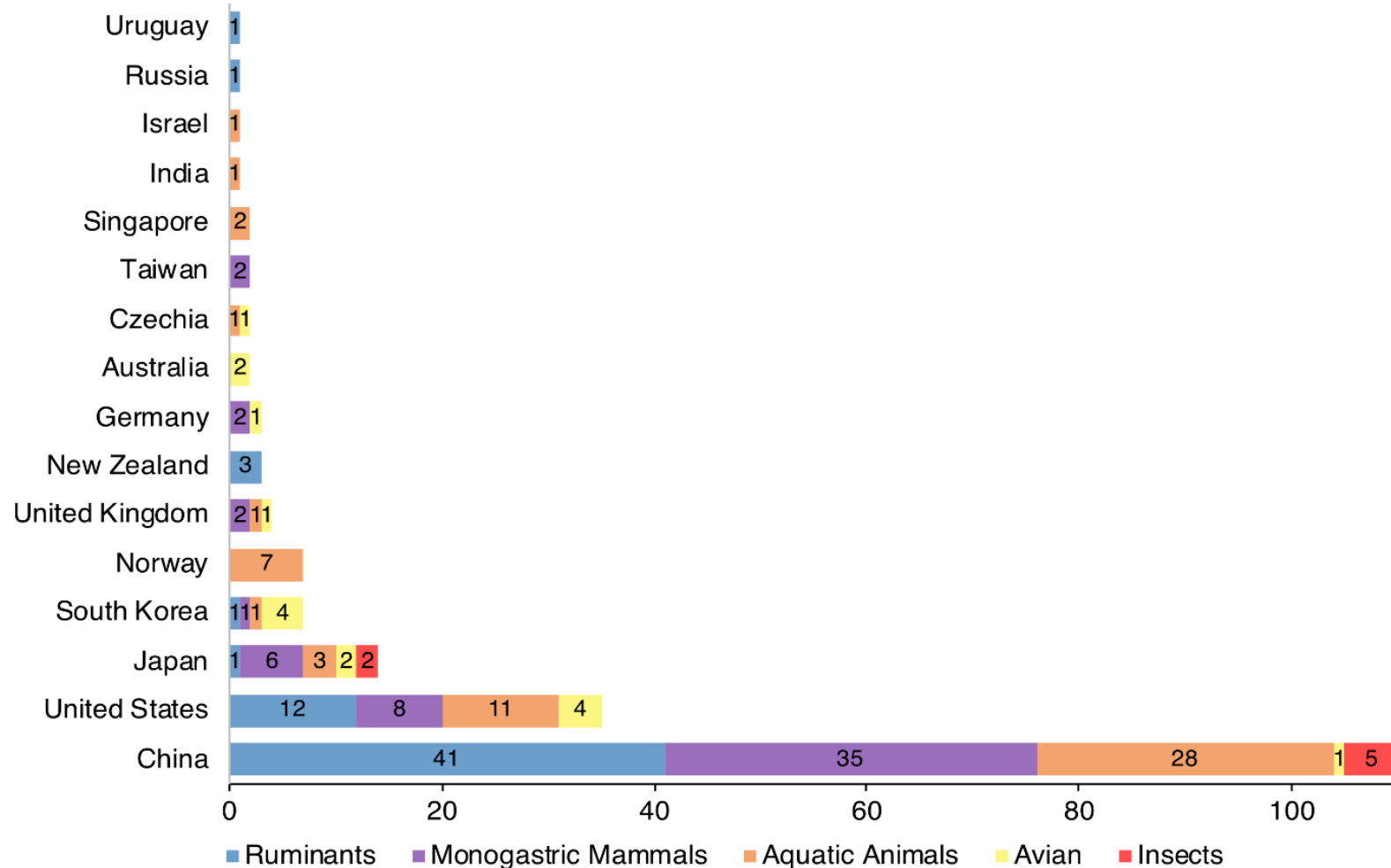


Van Eenennaam, A.L. 2023. New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) Animals and their Agri/food/feed products. *EFSA supporting publication* 2023: 20(9):EN-8311. 82 pp. doi:[10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8311](https://doi.org/10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8311)

Animal category breakdown X country of peer-reviewed publications producing gene edited food animals for agriculture



COUNTRIES



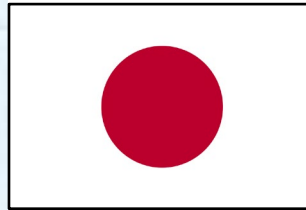


| Organism | Common name | Species name | Number (N=195) | Yield | Reproduction | Biotic Stress/ Abiotic Stress | Hypoallergenic/ Quality | Multiple Traits | Other |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Mammals (59%) | Pigs | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | 52 | 16 | 4 | 18 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| | Cattle | <i>Bos taurus taurus</i> <i>Bos taurus indicus</i> | 23 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 4 | | 1 |
| | Sheep | <i>Ovis aries</i> | 20 | 13 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Goats | <i>Capra hircus</i> | 17 | 11 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | Rabbits | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| Avian (8%) | Chickens | <i>Gallus gallus</i> | 13 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | |
| | Japanese Quail | <i>Coturnix japonica</i> | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| | Duck | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Aquatic Animals (29%) | Nile tilapia | <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> | 18 | | 16 | | | 1 | 1 |
| | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> | 7 | | 3 | | 2 | | 2 |
| | Common carp | <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> | 4 | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| | Farmed carp | <i>Labeo rohita</i> | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | White crucian carp | <i>Carassius auratus</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | Mozambique Tilapia | <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | Gibel carp | <i>Carassius gibelio</i> | 2 | | 2 | | | | |
| | Olive flounder | <i>Paralichthys olivaceus</i> | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| | Loach | <i>Paramisgurnus dabryanus</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | Channel catfish | <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| | Southern catfish | <i>Silurus meridionali</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | Yellow catfish | <i>Pelteobagrus fulvidraco</i> | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| | Sterlet | <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| | Tiger pufferfish | <i>Takifugu rubripes</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | Red sea bream | <i>Pagrus major</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | Blunt snout sea bream | <i>Megalobrama amblycephala</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | Rainbow Trout | <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| | Redhead cichlid | <i>Vieja melanura</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | Royal farlowella | <i>Sturisoma panamense</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | Oyster | <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Insects (4%) | Silk worm | <i>Bombyx mori</i> | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | Honeybee | <i>Apis mellifera</i> | 4 | | | | | | 4 |
| TOTAL | | | 195 | 32% | 20% | 18% | 12% | 7% | 11% |

Gene editing myostatin to obtain myostatin (Tilapia, Bream) and leptin receptor (Puffer) KO fish



Puffer fish



Fish (Tilapia)

Nile tilapia with increased fillet yield

- Fish embryos injected with CRISPR/Cas9 mRNA to target
- Deletions of nucleotides to knockout the gene
- Increased growth rate and feed conversion
- Product considered non-GMO in 2019



Brazil



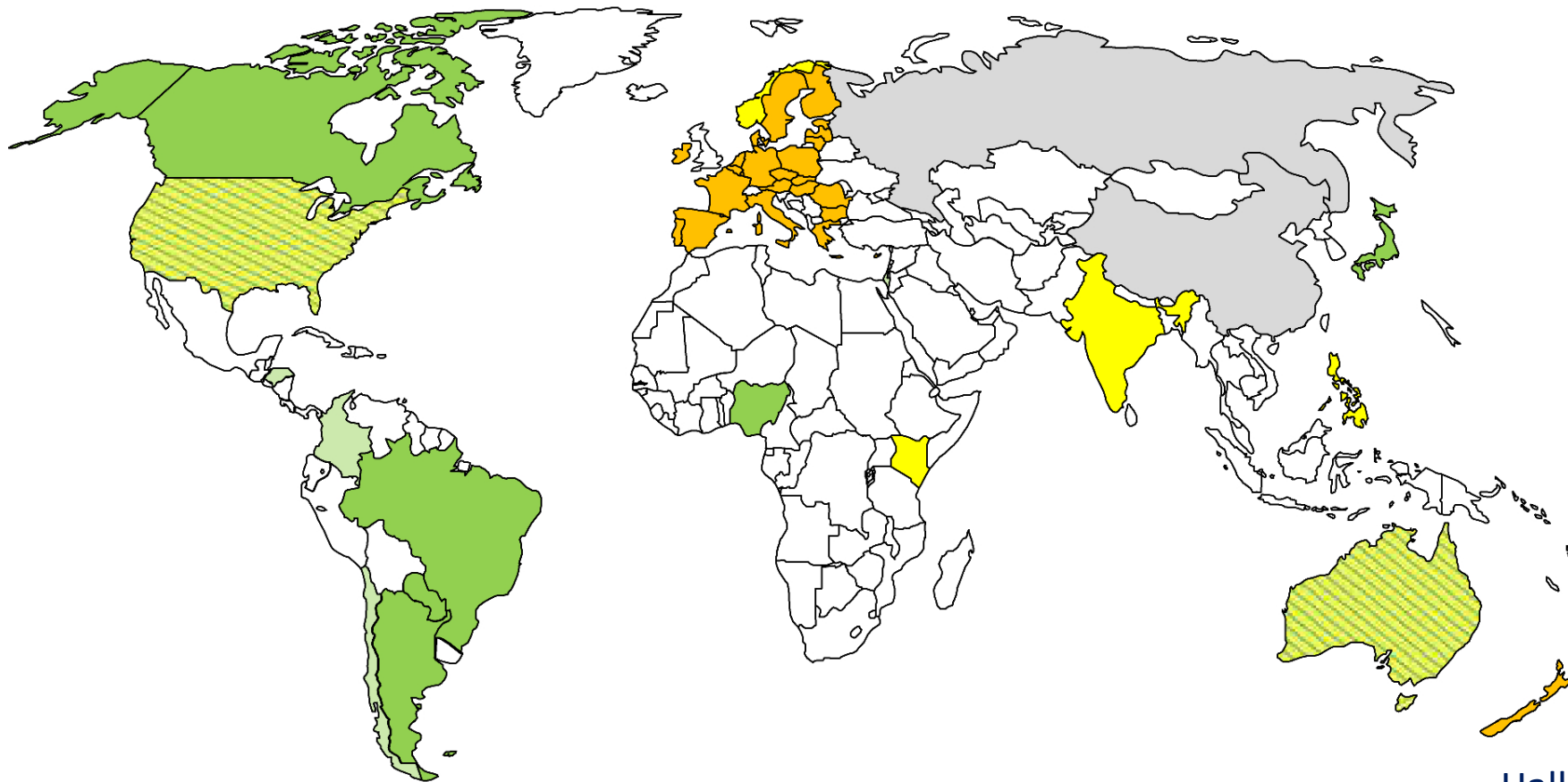
Red Sea Bream



Argentina

As of 2 January 2021

Overview of national or supranational regulatory regimes for GM or GnEd animals



Countries with regulatory policy with exclusions



Countries with regulatory policy with exclusions (plants only)



Countries with pending policies, regulations, or legal rulings



Countries with GMO only policy with no exclusions

Hallerman *et al.* 2022.
Towards progressive regulatory approaches for agricultural applications of animal biotechnology
Transgenic Res **31**, 167–199

Cattle with simple modifications were determined to be “non-GMO” in Brazil in 2021

Cattle

- Semen from a bull (Nelore) with double muscle
 - TALENs injection into the cytoplasm of IVF zygotes
 - Indels to knockout the myostatin gene
- Male and female with slick hair
 - CRISPR/Cas9 injection into the cytoplasm of IVF zygotes;
 - Mutations inserted in the prolactin receptor
- Both considered non-GMO in 2021



Transgenic Res (2015) 24:143–153
DOI 10.1007/s11248-014-9832-x

ORIGINAL PAPER

acceligen™

Genome edited sheep and cattle

Chris Proudfoot · Daniel F. Carlson · Rachel Huddart · Charles R. Long ·
Jane H. Pryor · Tim J. King · Simon G. Lillico · Alan J. Mitcham ·
David G. McLaren · C. Bruce A. Whitelaw · Scott C. Fahrenkrug



Cattle with simple modifications were determined to be “non-GMO” in Argentina 2020

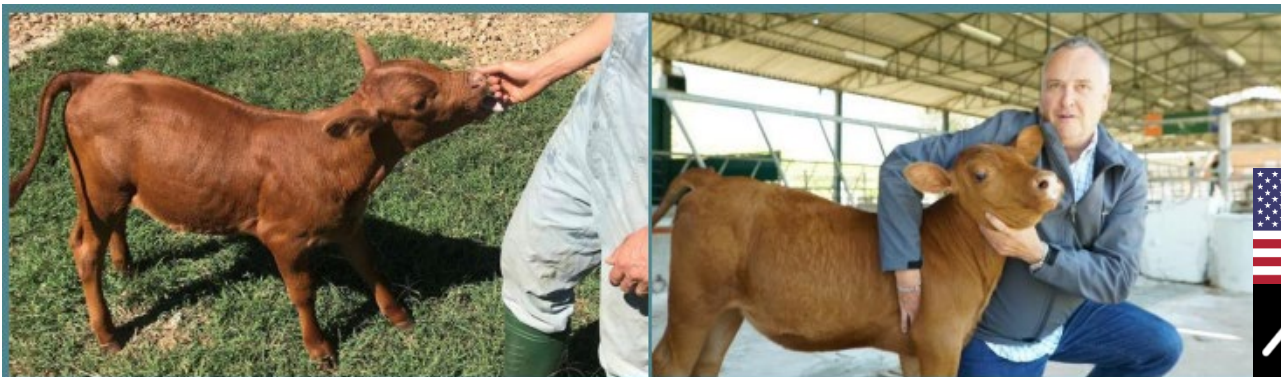
- *SLICK* edited Red Angus
 - Double edited Celtic Pc polled/*SLICK* Holstein
- In partnership with Kheiron S.A.

Previous Consultation Instance: product under development

- Produced using TALENs
- 1) Celtic allele: hornless trait. Naturally present in Angus, Simmental, Limousin, Charolais and Galloway
- 2) *SLICK* allele: improved heat-tolerance trait. Naturally present in Senepol, Carora, Limonero and Romosinuano.



June 2020 – no foreign DNA sequence and as such “no new combination of genetic material” And so considered “non-GMO”



acceligen™

FDA gives enforcement discretion to *SLICK* cattle submission by Acceligen (Recombinetics)

FDA Makes Low-Risk Determination for Marketing of Products from Genome-Edited Beef Cattle After Safety Review

Decision Regarding Slick-Haired Cattle is Agency's First Enforcement Discretion Decision for an Intentional Genomic Alteration in an Animal for Food Use



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March 7, 2022

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<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-makes-low-risk-determination-marketing-products-genome-edited-beef-cattle-after-safety-review>

Content current as of:
03/07/2022

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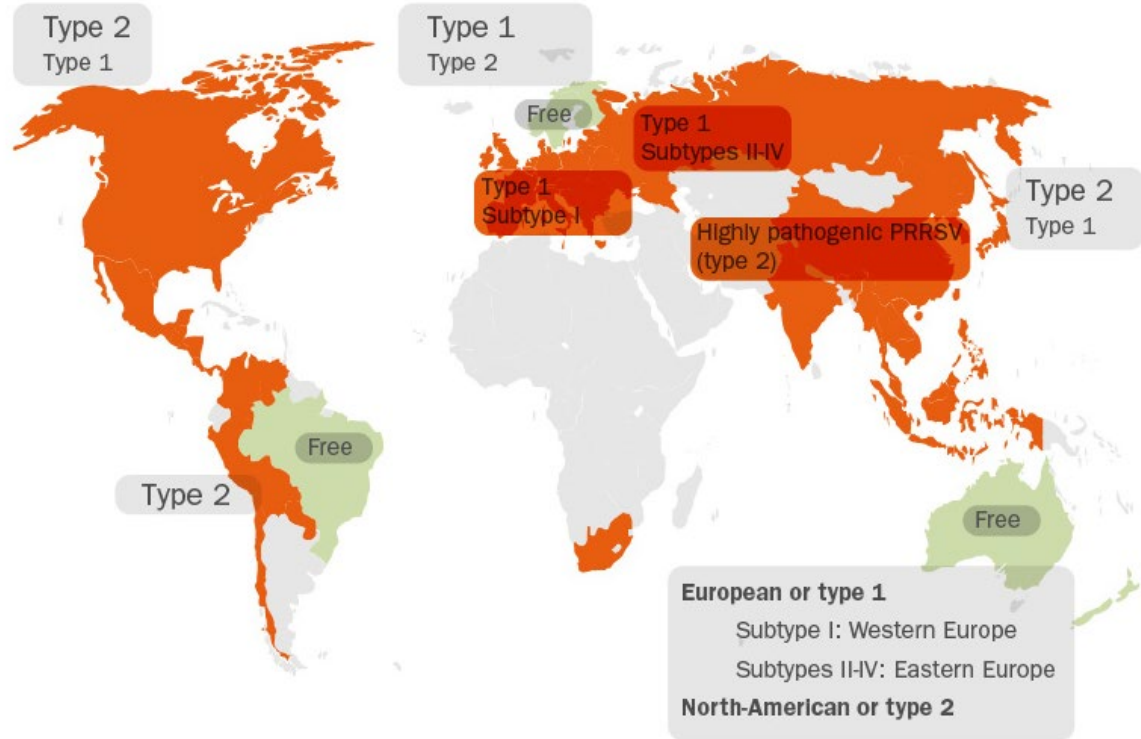
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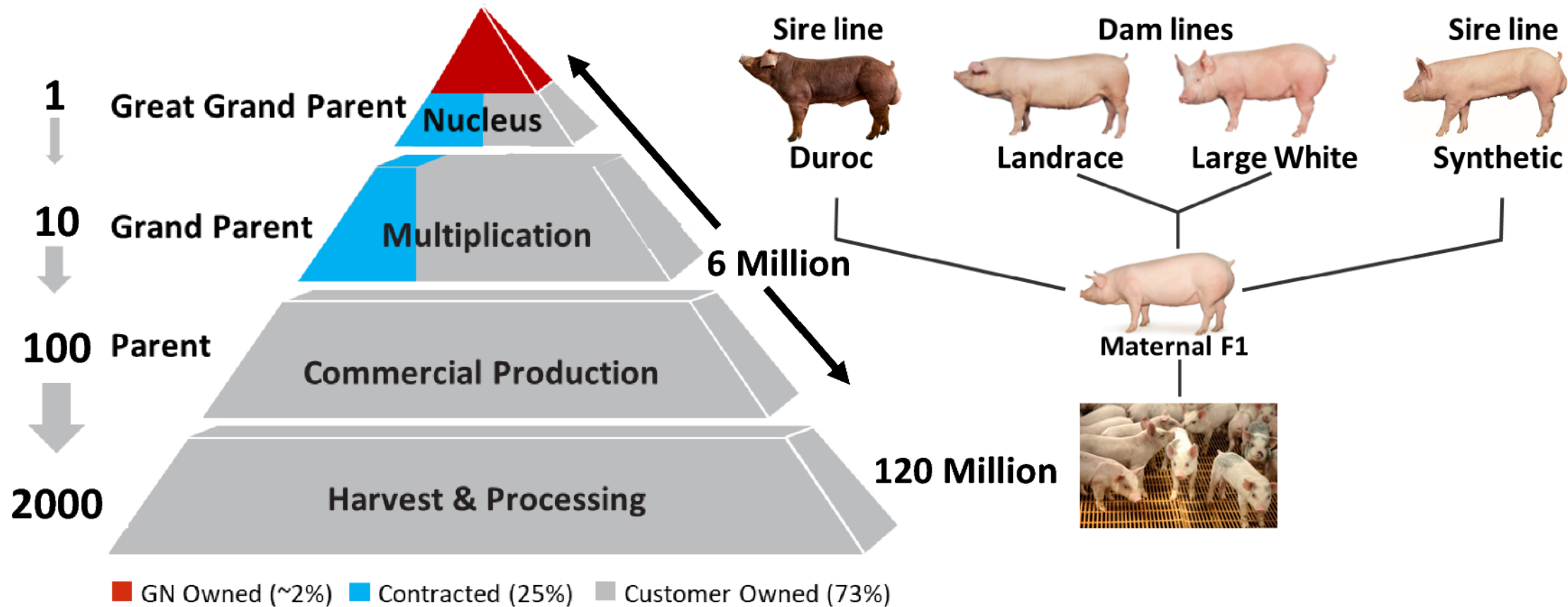
Gene editing to produce Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus resistant pigs

PRRS virus global distribution (2014)



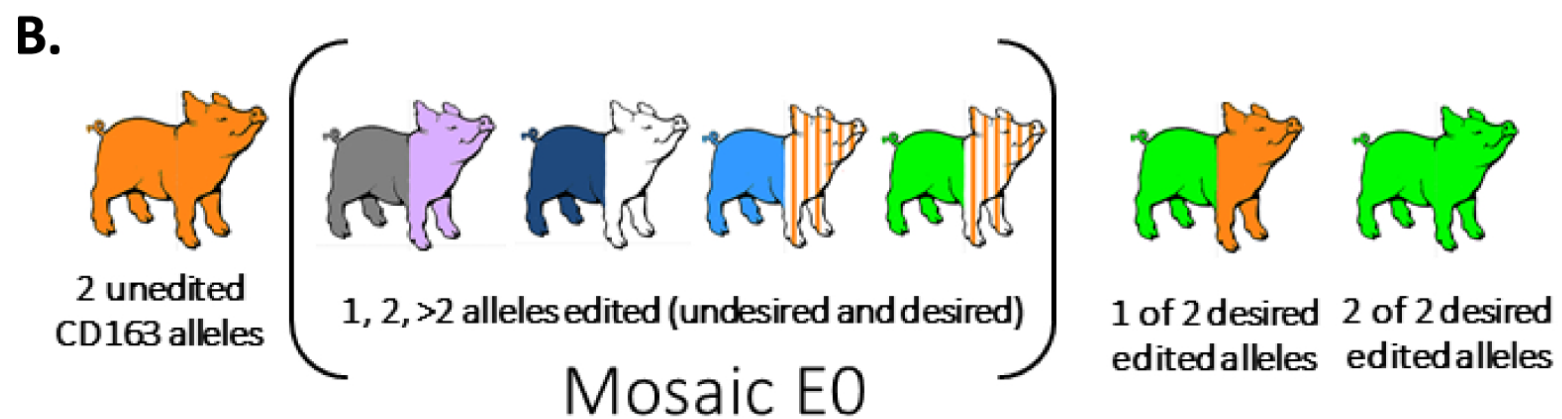
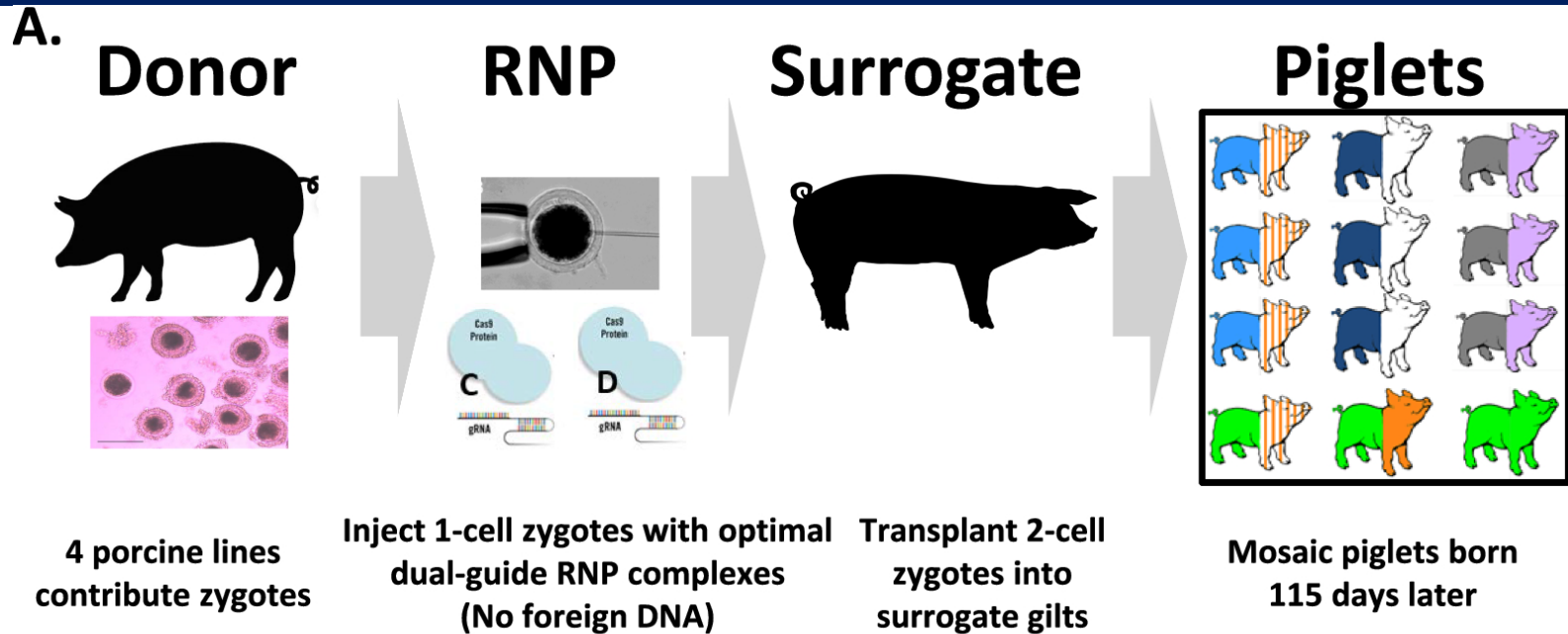
Whitworth et al. 2016. **Gene-edited pigs are protected from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV).** Nature Biotechnology 34:20-22.

Technical considerations towards commercialization of respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) virus resistant pigs



Mark Cigan, A., Knap, P.W. 2022. Technical considerations towards commercialization of porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) virus resistant pigs. *CABI Agric Biosci* 3, 34

Scaled production of pigs containing modified allele of CD163.

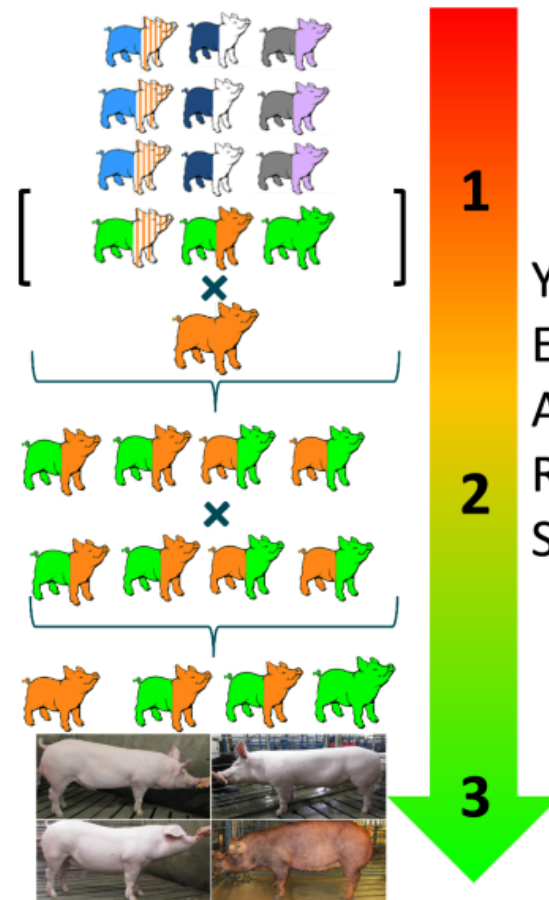


A. Advancing PRRS virus resistance allele

1st Generation (E0)

➤ Mixture of alleles

- Identify piglets containing desired CD163 using Illumina and Nanopore
- Many pigs contain multiple alleles (mosaic)
- Sequence capture pigs with desired allele
- Pigs with desired allele bred to wild-type line identical mates



2nd Generation (E1)

➤ Heterozygous alleles

- Identify piglets with transmitted desired CD163 by Illumina
- Pigs with desired allele screened by sequence capture to sequence CD163 allele and identify transmitted off-target INDELs
- Heterozygous E1 pigs with no off-target INDELs are crossed
- Crossing based on genetic indexes

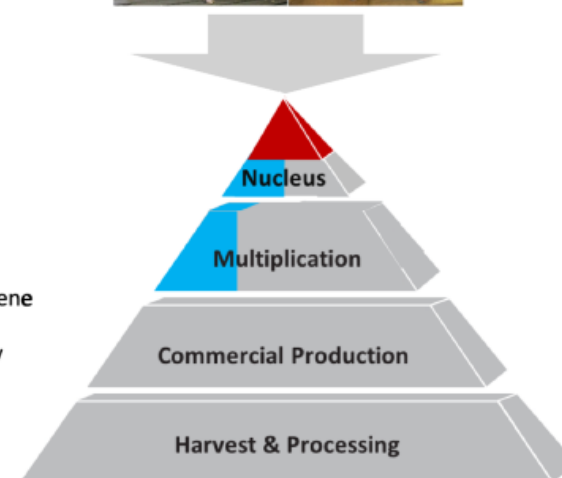
3rd Generation (E2)

➤ Homozygous CD163 allele

- CD163 allele segregates 1:2:1 in E2 generation
- Advance homozygous CD163 allele pigs
- No detected off-targets in this population
- Disease, commercial performance testing, regulatory submissions

B. Nucleus and conventional breeding

- 10-20 founder boars for each line used for continued genetic improvement of small gene edited nucleus herd
- Upon regulatory approval distribute PRRSV resistance germplasm through pyramid by breeding











Scaled breeding steps for 1st, 2nd & 3rd generation of pigs to generate gene edited nucleus herd.

“Approximately 10–20 high genetic merit CD163^{m/m} boars across 2 maternal and 2 paternal lines are used to maintain a small nucleus population for multiplication and genetic improvement. Upon approval, these founders would be multiplied and distributed to producers for commercial production and sale using conventional breeding practices.”

Mark Cigan, A., Knap, P.W. 2022. *CABI Agric Biosci* **3**, 34











Would a gene-edited knock-out food animal be subject to additional regulations in this country?

| Country | | Additional Regulations? | Basis of trigger/regulation? |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Argentina |  | No | Novel DNA sequence/transgene |
| Australia |  | No | Use of nucleic acid repair template |
| Brazil |  | No | Novel DNA sequence/transgene |
| Canada |  | No (?) | Trait novelty (i.e. novel product risk) |
| European Union |  | Yes | Is a GMO if used a mutagenesis technique not in existence before 2001 |
| Japan |  | No | No exogenous genes |
| New Zealand |  | Yes | Using of in vitro technique that modifies the genes/genetic material |
| United States |  | Yes | New Animal Drug |



Would a gene-edited knock-in of endogenous allele in food animal be subject to additional regulations?

| Country | | Additional Regulations? | Basis of trigger/regulation? |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Argentina |  | No | Novel DNA sequence/transgene |
| Australia |  | Yes | Use of nucleic acid repair template |
| Brazil |  | No | Novel DNA sequence/transgene |
| Canada |  | No (?) | Trait novelty (i.e. novel product risk) |
| European Union |  | Yes | Is a GMO if used a mutagenesis technique not in existence before 2001 |
| Japan |  | No | No exogenous genes |
| New Zealand |  | Yes | Using of in vitro technique that modifies the genes/genetic material |
| United States |  | Yes | New Animal Drug |

Editing as a Cherry on Top of the Breeding Sundae

It will be able to introduce useful alleles without linkage drag, and potentially bring in useful novel genetic variation from other breeds



Genome Editing

Somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning

Genomic Selection

Embryo Transfer

Artificial insemination

Progeny testing

Performance recording

Development of breeding goals

Association of like minded breeders



Van Eenennaam, A. L. 2018. The Importance of a Novel Product Risk-Based Trigger for Gene-Editing Regulation in Food Animal Species. 1 (2): 101-106.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/crispr.2017.0023>

Summary

- Genome editing offers an approach to introduce useful genetic variation and alleles without the linkage drag typically associated with cross-breeding.
- Scaling useful edits to commercial livestock breeding programs will be technically complicated and expensive
- Regulators in many countries consider simple edits (e.g. knockouts, moving allele from one breed to another) with no “foreign DNA” to be “non-GMO”
- The fate of genome editing in livestock will depend upon developing a risk-based regulatory framework



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- Ross lab members

revive & restore
genetic rescue for endangered and extinct species



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