



" A Report on New Plant Breeding Technologies (NPBT) has been published by COSCE with contributions from HARNESSTOM coordinator"

Harnesstom coordinator has participated in the elaboration of a report aimed to review the regulatory framework for Genomic Editing Techniques. This report was commissioned by COSCE, the Spanish Confederation for Scientific Societies (<https://cosce.org/informe-cosce-para-la-revision-del-marco-regulador-de-las-tecnicas-de-edicion-genomica/>) and it is intended to be used in informing politicians and members of the EU parliament about the NPBT.

COSCE has coordinated the preparation of a report that details the obstacles that the current legal framework in the European Union poses for the use of plant breeding techniques. The report also proposes alternatives aimed at reviewing the current regulations, abandoning radical and confrontational positions.

The report calls for the necessary revision of the regulatory framework for Plant Breeding Techniques in the EU so that the Spanish Agri-food sector will continue to be competitive and can face the challenge of productivity and sustainability required by climate change and the global increase in population.

The report highlights that it is urgent for Europe, and especially for Spain, to have a regulatory framework that supports and allows the development of advanced genetic improvement, essential to meet the demand for food production in a sustainable way. The current one is from 2001 and is obsolete, as recently recognized by the EU Court of Justice. In current European regulations, plant breeding techniques are not conveniently differentiated from transgenics and the report requests their necessary differentiation.

In addition, achievements of plant editing techniques are highlighted, whose application in Europe, and not in non-European competitor countries in Agri-food production, is hampered by the legal framework:

- Improvement in the ability of plants to assimilate nitrogenous compounds, which allows reducing the use of fertilizers in crops.
- Improvement in the nutritional characteristics of products of plant origin (such as bread or oil) and others that serve as fodder for animal feed.
- Plants resistant to insects and pathogenic microorganisms, which will mean an increase in their productivity and a significant reduction in the use of pesticides globally.
- Varieties capable of maintaining their production with saline irrigation water, in extreme temperatures, or drought conditions, and therefore more tolerant to climate change.

The document has been prepared by the following members of the COSCE Commission, created to analyze the legislative framework for Genome Editing Techniques:

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The full report can be found at:

https://www.cosce.org/docs/informe_COSCE_revisi%C3%B3n_marco_regulador_de_tecnicas_de_edicion_genomica_2022.pdf

