



“HARNESSTOM partners discuss New Genomic Techniques and the EC proposal about them at BIOSPAIN 2023.”

Antonio Granell, coordinator of the EU-project [Harnesstom](#) and Diego Orzaez a genome editing expert and CSC scientist in the project, have participated in a round table on New Genomic Techniques organized by the Spanish Association for Biotechnology [Asebio](#). The round table took place on the 6th of September in BioSpain 2023, Fira de Barcelona. Biospain 2023 is on the 11th year and has become the third largest Biotec fair in Europe breaking this time all records with more than 2.200 participants, representing 950 organization and 82 international investors from 33 countries.

The purpose of the session was to discuss the possible impacts the proposal of the Commission on [NGTs](#) could have on plant innovation in Europe, advocating for an innovation enabling approach to regulating these techniques both for plants and other organisms.

Panelist included: Antonio Granell, Research Professor at CSIC; Diego Orzaez Calatayud, Senior Researcher at CSIC and member of the NGT expert group of the National Biosecurity Commission (CNB); Jesús López Colmenarejo, General Manager at the publishing group Editorial Agrícola- Henar Comunicación Agroalimentaria, Esther Esteban Rodrigo, General Manager at the National Agriculture and Food Research and Technology Institute (INIA-CSIC); Mar Fernández, General Manager at the Spanish Egg Producer Association (ASEPRHU). The session was chaired by Richard Borreani, PublicAffairs, Science & Sustainability Manager in Bayer Crop Science Iberia

Panelists discussed about the key elements of the proposal, its likely impact on plant innovation and its contribution to the safety and sustainability of the European food chain. All basically agree the proposal is a good and much needed proposal that would facilitate innovations in the EU Agrofood space. The main concern also shared by all participants was whether the proposal would be approved on time to deal with the current challenges EU AgroFood systems. NGTs are considered by all members of this panel a strategic instrument for Europe if we are to comply with the GreenDeal and Farm to Fork strategies as they may contribute to produce crops in a more efficient and sustainable manner.



Photo: Panellists at the Workshop on NGT that took place at BIOSPAIN2023 in Barcelona.

