



A Symposium on Plant Crop Genome Editing organized by HARNESSTOM

A Symposium on “Plant Crop Genome Editing: beyond science ” is currently organized by HARNESSTOM. The meeting planned as a Virtual meeting / Webinar will be held on 3 or 12 May 2021 and it is aimed at Scientists, legislators, economists, politicians, etc. . HARNESSTOM coordinator A. Granell will introduce the Symposium and moderate the Scientific Session I, while D. Orzaez will present the latest news on the use of the editing for plants.

Simposio
**Edición Genómica
de Cultivos: más
allá de la ciencia**

12 mayo 2021
11-13:30 h
Formato online

Organizado por:

eusage European Sustainable Agriculture
Through Genome Editing

biovegén plataforma tecnológica
de biotecnología vegetal

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The time is ripe for this meeting as it is when the EC will publish the results of a study she Commissioned a couple of years ago on Genome editing. Genomic editing is a revolutionary technology whose significance has been recognized with the award of the [Nobel Prize](#) to its discoverers. Its application to the improvement of crops transcends the field of research. The decision of the Court of Justice of the EU to subject plants improved by genomic editing to the complicated and expensive European regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), places this technology outside the usual and familiar site for registration of new varieties that plant breeders and seed companies are sued to. This is a hard blow to the expectations





and promises that genetic editing offers for the sustainability and competitiveness of a sector such as agri-food, which is so important in many EU countries. But the dramatic consequences on economy and competitiveness will affect more those countries in the EU with high stakes in Agrifood such as Spain, Italy, France, The Netherlands. The numerous reactions to this ruling from both academia and industry have led the EU to commission a study on its importance and its impact within the Union. The result of this study is to be published in April 2021. After the presentation of this study, member states will have the opportunity to react to it and evaluating the possibility of proposing legislative changes that allow the deregulation of some types of genomic editing, thus correcting at least partially the negative consequences that the application of an excessively restrictive regulation would have.

In this framework of events, HARNESSTOM commitment for excellence and innovation in breeding, that included editing tomato as part of the WP, considers that the time was ripe to hold this symposium to debate what would be the social, economic and sustainability consequences derived from the implementation of a GMO regulation on edited plants. For this, we will analyze the ethical, legal and competitiveness derivatives from the hand of experts in different disciplines, including representatives of different public and private groups with interests derived from the application of the genomic editing application. In addition to the state-of-the-art of genomic editing and its application to agriculture will be reviewed.

The symposium will be divided in two linked sessions, a first one on the technical-scientific aspects and a second one that will cover the other legal, ethical and socioeconomic aspects. Format round tables of discussion after brief presentations of the moderator and members of the table in response to questions posed by the organizers. HARNESSTOM coordinator A. Granell will introduce the Symposium and chair the Scientific Session I, while F. Palau from UPV will co-chair session II and D. Orzaez will present the latest news on the use of the editing for plants.

