



- Conference
- Subject: The importance of innovation towards achieving the goals of the Farm to Fork strategy
- Date: 08/06/2023 14:00-7:30
- Place: Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Bruxelles



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Contribution SANTE/E3 to the briefing:

CONFERENCE: THE IMPORTANCE OF INNOVATION TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE FARM TO FORK STRATEGY

08/06/2023 14:00-7:30

Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Bruxelles Place

Steering note

During the FEFANA (EU Association of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures) Annual meeting 2023, you will give an opening presentation ('The importance of innovation towards achieving the goals of the Farm to Fork strategy – current and future EU policy developments') and participate in the panel discussion and Q&A session with FEFANA members and other stakeholders in the feed chain.

Meeting participants:

- FEFANA [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
- FEFANA [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED], Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)
- European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC)
- [REDACTED] FEFANA Sustainability Steering Group

1. Objective

- To frame the panel content by presenting the Commission's NGT policy initiative and its objectives in the context of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.
- To invite everyone to play a role in the transition to a sustainable agri-food system and to promote an open and constructive debate on the matter before and during the interinstitutional negotiations.

2. Key messages

2.1. New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

- This is an initiative to stimulate innovation, economic competitiveness and sustainability in the agri-food sector.
- We aim to design a legal framework for NGTs that supports green transition with varieties that can contribute to sustainability, resilience, food security and adaptation to climate change.
- A proposal is scheduled for adoption on 5 July.
- The regulatory framework will reflect current scientific knowledge and the fact that NGTs can lead to products with very diverse risk profiles, in some cases similar to those obtained with conventional breeding.
- We are committed to ensure safety, enabling choice for breeders, farmers and consumers to reap

benefits from the potential of plants obtained by NGTs.

3. Background

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

Position of FEFANA (EU Association of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures)

FEFANA is the united voice of the specialty feed ingredients business in Europe. Their membership comprises manufacturers and traders of feed additives, functional feed ingredients, premixes and other mixtures of specialty ingredients that enter the food chain via feed. FEFANA facilitates the dialogue between EU institutions and feed business operators while promoting feed and food safety and a fair and competitive market.

They have published a position paper on ‘The European Green Deal and the development of a Farm to Fork Strategy Contribution of the Specialty Feed Ingredients Industry’ on 31st of January 2020 (<https://fefana.org/app/uploads/2022/05/2020-01-31-FEFANA-position-paper-on-the-Green-Deal-and-Farm-to-Fork-Strategy.pdf>). In this paper, the expressed support towards *‘the recently started Commission initiative to assess the fitness of the EU legislative framework for new genomic techniques as a step towards exploiting the potential of modern biotechnology/fermentation technology to contribute to meeting the increasing demand for high-quality food, feed and bio-based goods while using fewer resources and producing less pollution and emissions’*.

Position of FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe)

FVE represents veterinary organisations from 38 European Countries and veterinarians working in all different Sectors. FVE strives to enhance animal health, animal welfare, public health and the protection of the environment by promoting the veterinary profession. FVE efforts are focused on: One Health, Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Education, Food Safety and Public Health, Medicines and Veterinary Profession.

FVE’s position on NGTs is unknown.

Position of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

FAO has published in 2022 their considerations on “Gene editing and agrifood systems” (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3579en>) and in 2023 their considerations on “Gene editing and food safety” (<https://www.fao.org/3/cc5136en/cc5136en.pdf>). FAO advocates the use NGTs, while maintaining a balanced view and acknowledging the necessity of examining risks and concerns. They present a balanced discussion of the most pertinent aspects of gene editing, including the consequences for human hunger, human health, food safety, effects on the environment, animal welfare, socioeconomic impact and distribution of benefits. FAO also recognizes the potential need for discussion fora and scientific and policy advice on the safety assessments of gene edited foods and support introduction of new traits for pest protection, drought tolerance, and improved food composition with gene editing, since they can significantly enhance productivity, resilience, and

sustainability. They believe that gene editing is accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including public research institutions and local entrepreneurs, allowing for widespread adoption and benefiting small-scale farmers worldwide. They advocate that existing guidelines and protocols established by organizations like Codex Alimentarius provide a solid foundation for ensuring the safety and fair trade of gene-edited foods. They believe that it is essential that national governments adopt a science-based approach to regulation, avoiding unnecessary burdensome requirements that lack a scientific basis.

Position of IFIF (International Feed Industry Federation)

IFIF represents and promotes the global feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain that provides sustainable, safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing world population. IFIF is made up of national and regional feed associations from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, North and South America and the Middle East, as well feed related organizations and corporate members from around the globe. Overall, IFIF members represent over 80% of total compound animal feed production worldwide.

IFIF's key projects are all under three Pillars and include: Sustainability, Regulatory & International Standards and Regulatory & International Standards. They believe that meeting the increased demand of 60% more food in the future can only be achieved through collaborative efforts involving all stakeholders within the feed and food chain; this includes governments, the private sector, and non-governmental groups.

IFIF's position on NGTs is unknown.

Position of FEFAC (European Feed Manufacturer's Federation)

FEFAC and other 19 agri-food value chain organisations sent a letter to the Commission on 10th of May 2023, regarding the planned legislative proposal on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) (<https://euroseeds.eu/app/uploads/2023/05/23.0265.3-Value-chain-Letter-NGTs.pdf>). In this letter they express their opinion that the new proposal should treat NGT-derived plants and seeds based in the same manner as those obtained in conventional ways. This means no specific labelling obligations should be imposed, while separate coexistence measures should ensure the integrity of the organic sector.

4. Annex

- Program of the Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting 2023 – afternoon session

Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Bruxelles
Thursday, 8 June 2023, 14:00 – 17:30

PROGRAMME

	Welcome: ██████████ FEFANA Secretary General
14:00	The importance of innovation towards achieving the goals of the Farm to Fork strategy – current and future EU policy developments, Ms. Claire Bury, Deputy Director-General responsible for Food sustainability, DG SANTE, European Commission
14:15	Animal Nutrition – a key contributor to animal health and welfare – ██████████ Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
14:30	The contribution of specialty feed ingredients towards the objectives of the European Green Deal / Farm to Fork Strategy – FEFANA ██████████
14:45	Panel discussion and Q&A with the three speakers
15:00	Coffee/tea break
15:35	The global perspective : FAO activities in support reducing the need for the use of antimicrobials through animal nutrition – ██████████ ██████████ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
16:00	Outcome of the SFIS phase-3 project, IFIF and GFLI collaboration to facilitate the generation of data for the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of feed – International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)
16:25	EU feed chain initiative on labelling the environmental performance of feed – European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC)
16:50	Other EU policy initiatives of feed chain importance – ██████████ FEFANA Sustainability Steering Group
17:15	Panel discussion and Q&A with the four speakers
17:30	Closure of the session, followed by a reception (until about 19:30)