

Brussels 16/09/2023



GIVE **GENES** A CHANCE !

**Press release:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

GIVE GENES A CHANCE, SCIENCE ON THE STREETS

Citizens and Scientists Unite in Unprecedented Action of Support for Evidence-Informed EU Regulation on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) like CRISPR

[Brussels, 15/09/2023] – in light of our successful collaboration over time, we are excited to announce that two pioneering early-career researcher initiatives, GeneSprout Initiative and Öko-Progressives Netzwerk e. V., have joined forces with the science-based environmental NGO RePlanet, to organize an event aimed at advocating for evidence-informed European Union (EU) regulation on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) such as CRISPR.

Amidst mounting concerns about the impacts of climate change on global food security and environmental stability, these organizations are unifying citizens and scientists alike to show their unwavering support for the implementation of science-driven regulations for NGTs.

CRISPR, as one of the foremost NGTs, offers promising solutions to help address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. This remarkable technology can contribute significantly to forging a sustainable future for farming and food production by:

1. Ensuring a resilient agri-food supply chain:

CRISPR empowers scientists and farmers to develop crops with enhanced resilience to the increasingly erratic and extreme weather conditions associated with climate change.

2. Reducing Pesticide Use:

With the precision of CRISPR, it becomes possible to create crops that are inherently resistant to pests and diseases, thereby decreasing the need for harmful pesticides.

3. Mitigating Biodiversity Loss:

By reducing the necessity for additional farmland through improved crop yields, CRISPR can play a pivotal role in curtailing deforestation as well as preserving and restoring vital ecosystems.

4. Reducing Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

NGTs, including CRISPR, hold promise for substantial reductions in agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These innovative techniques offer the potential to lower GHG emissions associated with agricultural production and mitigate emissions linked to land-use changes. The application of NGTs in European agriculture, for instance, could result in significant GHG emission reductions, offering a vital tool for mitigating climate change.

This regulation is a critical step towards harnessing NGTs to usher in a new era of sustainable agricultural practices. As we look toward the future, it is clear that New Genomic Techniques can help ensure the resilience and adaptability of our food production systems, empowering us to confront rapidly changing environmental conditions head-on.

Join us this Saturday as we bring science to the streets to demonstrate our shared commitment to evidence-informed EU regulation on NGTs. Together, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

our action:

Saturday 16/09/2023

Europakruispunt/Carrefour de l'Europe

Brussels

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For RePlanet (Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland)



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