

FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF GENE EDITING IN AGRICULTURE

Achieving verification that your company is operating in conformance with the Framework for Responsible Use

The Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture's Framework for Responsible Use of Gene Editing in Agriculture provides guidance to help organizations build trust in gene-edited products in the marketplace. The Framework includes principles and operational commitments that organizations follow to assure consumers that they are using gene editing technology with the broader interests of agriculture, the food system and society in mind.

The Coalition offers a voluntary verification program that helps participants demonstrate they are operating in conformance with the Framework for Responsible Use. A third party manages the verification process and hires professional auditors to review Framework Participants' organizational procedures to maintain the credibility of the program.

WHO CAN ACHIEVE VERIFICATION?

Companies, businesses and academic or government organizations that use gene editing or its outputs in commercial research, development or manufacturing of food or agriculture are invited to become Framework Participants and achieve verification. Framework Participants must support the vision as set forth in the Coalition's Membership Terms and Conditions, and abide by the Coalition's Mission, Principles and Commitments. Framework Participants will engage in a self-verification process every year and third-party verification every three years to remain in conformance with the Framework.



WHY SHOULD MY COMPANY ACHIEVE VERIFICATION?

Historically, one of the biggest challenges to introducing technology in food and agriculture has been a lack of "felt need" by society – a belief that we have what we need, and new technology in food production offers little societal benefit. But our food supply is facing unprecedented pressure.

That's where gene editing comes in. It's one of today's most promising innovations, with tremendous potential to benefit society, farming and food production. Now is the time to double down on efforts to earn trust in gene editing and other new technology in agriculture. The ability of these technologies to achieve their full potential hinges on public support. The Framework provides a mechanism for organizations to reassure consumers that they are using gene editing with the broader interests of agriculture, the food system and society in mind.

HOW DOES MY COMPANY/ORGANIZATION START THE VERIFICATION PROCESS?



HOW MUCH WILL IT COST FOR MY COMPANY/ORGANIZATION TO GET VERIFIED?

The Coalition’s goal is to offer a credible, effective and affordable verification program. The cost will vary based on the complexity of the organization, the number of relevant commitments and the development stages of the gene editing applications. All Framework Participants will pay a \$1,000 verification application fee to The Center for Food Integrity. The estimated verification costs for most organizations will range from \$500-2,000. The verification fees will be paid directly to the verification body.

For more information, visit geneediting.foodintegrity.org.

The Coalition for Responsible Use of Gene Editing in Agriculture is administered by The Center for Food Integrity.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY COMPANY/ORGANIZATION TO ACHIEVE VERIFICATION?

The timeline to complete the verification process will vary based on the type, size and complexity of the organization.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO GUIDE MY COMPANY/ORGANIZATION THROUGH THE VERIFICATION PROCESS?

The Coalition offers several resources to help your company/organization prepare for verification including:

- Guide to Achieving Verification
- Self-assessment tool
- Verification checklist
- Framework participant training webinars

These resources are available at geneediting.foodintegrity.org or upon request by emailing geneediting@foodintegrity.org.



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