



# GMOs in the US

Webinar: Genetic Engineering for Sustainable Food Systems?

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# Introduction

- The Non-GMO Project is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving a non-GMO food supply through its rigorous non-GMO Verification standard
- The US government provides limited oversight of traditional GMOs and almost no oversight of crops/products of new GMO techniques
- The US GMO labeling law, the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (NBFDS), is inconsistent and provides limited insight into genetically modified products, ingredients, and inputs
- Sustainability as a collective issue or goal is relatively new in the US





# Non-GMO Project

- The Non-GMO Project was founded in 2007 to address the desire of consumers to avoid GMOs
- The on-pack Non-GMO Project Verification mark was launched in 2010
- The Project's definition of GMO is based on and aligns with the Cartagena Protocol
- The number of Project Verified products has grown from approx. 750 in 2010 to over 62,700 at the present time
- Consumer recognition of the Non-GMO Project Verified label (54%) is second only to that of the Certified Organic label (63%)
- Currently, the Project is monitoring over 460 developers and almost 120 crops/products of genetic modification/engineering



# GMOs in the US

- Traditional GMOs dominate commodity crops:
  - Corn – 92%
  - Cotton – 96%
  - Soybeans – 94%
  - Sugar beets – >90%
  - Canola (rapeseed) – >90%
- Five new GMO crops have been commercialized:
  - Arctic™ Apple (Arctic™ Golden, Arctic™ Granny)
  - Simplot Innate Potato
  - Del Monte PinkGlow™ Pineapple
  - Calyxt HO Soy
  - Cibus SU Canola



# GMO Observations

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- No new GMO crops commercialized in the US to date have made sustainability claims
- Without regulation, monitoring, and/or labeling, transparency is at risk or lost
- There is no empirical evidence to validate new GMO sustainability claims
- Development traits, pipelines, and timelines are continuously shifting
- Companies promote strategies that serve their financial goals
- Based on historical data, there is a tendency to over-promise
- It is difficult to conduct and achieve unbiased assessments
- It is uncertain to what extent non-HT/non-Bt traits will be marketable without incentives
- Radically streamlined paths from development to commercialization have not materialized
- Both Calyxt and Cibus have recently changed course: Calyxt sold the remainder of its HO Soy harvest to ADM, and Cibus sold its SU Canola seed breeding program to Farmers Business Network<sup>®</sup> (FBN)

