

# Plants for the Future ETP welcomes the outcome of the EP Plenary vote on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2026

As a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together members of academia, the seed and breeding industry and farmers, we are encouraged by the strong support expressed for the NGTs compromise.

Following the ENVI Committee's vote in favour of the final approval of the compromise text, and the subsequent positive outcome in the European Parliament's plenary, Europe has taken an important step towards unlocking innovation in plant breeding and strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of its agri-food systems.

The regulatory framework divides NGT plants into two categories based on the nature and extent of genomic modifications. Category 1 NGT plants are those where the genetic changes are similar to what could happen naturally or through traditional breeding and are defined by the fulfilment of specific equivalence criteria (Annex I). For this reason, they are considered equivalent to conventional plants and are not regulated under EU GMO legislation. In contrast, Category 2 NGT plants include all other NGT plants that do not meet these equivalence criteria and usually involve more complex genetic changes. Category 2 NGT plants remain subject to the GMO rules, including risk assessment, authorisation before marketing, traceability, and labelling requirements. In this context, risk assessment is carried out on a case-by-case basis, with the type and amount of data required adapted to the specific characteristics of each plant.

The adoption of the NGT compromise sends a strong and positive signal that the EU is ready to establish an enabling, science-based framework that allows its scientific excellence to translate into concrete solutions for society, the environment, and the economy. NGTs already offer significant potential to address key challenges such as climate change, resource constraints, and food security. Providing a clear and workable regulatory pathway is essential to ensure that these innovations can contribute to more sustainable, resilient, and future-ready agriculture, while maintaining Europe's position in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

Plants for the Future is committed to supporting the next phase of implementation, including the development of secondary legislation and the accompanying technical rules. In particular, we stand ready to contribute practical knowledge and scientific insight to help shape these rules so they are workable, science-based, and enable the effective uptake of NGTs. This will be key to ensuring that scientists and innovators can apply these technologies efficiently and deliver improved crop varieties addressing both current and future challenges in agriculture.

We look forward to the next steps in the process and remain committed to supporting a balanced and forward-looking framework that benefits farmers, consumers, and the wider value chain.