PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF GENE EDITING





Effective, science-based government regulation

- Regulators have the responsibility to assess the potential risks of gene-edited products before release and not assume the products are analogous to products derived from conventional breeding.
- Regulation should be based on the best scientific evidence available.
- Use a tiered, proportionate approach to align the risk assessment with the likely risk of a product.
- Regulation must balance societal safeguards with timely, efficient access to benefits.



Voluntary best practices that complement regulatory oversight

- A product assessment should be conducted before product release.
- Voluntary assessment of the benefits, impacts, and efficacy of gene edited products should continue throughout the lifecycle of the product, including post-market.



Risk avoidance and delivery of tangible societal benefits

- Avoid substantial risk to agriculture, food systems, health and the environment.
- Consider a broad range of environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits.



Robust, inclusive societal engagement

- Prioritization of which applications to pursue and how to govern them should involve societal input.
- Stakeholder engagement should be a component of the regulatory process and a precondition for social license.



Inclusive access to gene editing technology and resources

- A diversity of investment sources can help to drive better societal outcomes.
- Technology access enables the broadest set of beneficial applications and enhances trust.



Transparency on gene edited products in the environment

- A national registry of gene editing applications used in the U.S. should be established.
- Accessible information should enable consumers and stakeholders to understand if consumer goods and other applications utilize gene editing.













For more on these principles, see Keystone Policy Center or Nature Biotechnology.