

MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE

PLANT BREEDING INNOVATIONS & MARKET ACCESS ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

- Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA) advocates that seeds produced using any plant breeding technique, including gene editing, should be subject to science-based regulations and policies related to health and safety.
- MCA advocates that all value chain participants must abide by the appropriate science-based regulations and policies/best management practices when launching products of plant breeding innovations in Canada to our export and domestic markets.
- MCA advocates that all value chain participants, including federal regulatory agencies and seed developers, are fully transparent in implementing regulations around plant breeding technologies, in order to maintain trust and reputation in domestic and global markets.

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

- MCA recognizes the importance of research and innovation to the success of Manitoba farmers, including the area of seed development.
- MCA believes variety development and plant breeding innovations will help unlock yield potential for Canadian crops, remove production barriers and help farmers meet sustainability goals (*as per Key Result #4 under Objective #1 of MCA's Strategic Plan*). Overall, we believe these innovations will drive profitability for our farmers.
- MCA supports that all food in Canada – novel or not – should be regulated by the appropriate government agencies in order to ensure its ongoing safety for consumers.
- MCA acknowledges that Health Canada, regulators and academics around the world have scrutinized the science and concluded that gene editing as a plant breeding technique is as safe as conventional breeding.
- MCA is proud of our world-renowned crops. Farmers and the entire value chain must continue to serve our global customers who rely on our consistently high-quality product.
- MCA will continue to support organizations that establish, develop and grow markets and access for the crops Manitoba farmers grow (*as per Key Result #1 under Objective 2 of MCA's Strategic Plan*).
- MCA will share knowledge that demonstrates our farmers members produce safe, high-quality crops using science-based sustainable practices (*as per Key Result #2 under Objective 2 of MCA's Strategic Plan*).
- MCA supports that seed grown in Canada must be approved in key export markets.
- MCA supports government efforts to provide transparency about gene-edited products, including through such tools as:



- CFIA and Health Canada decision documents
 - CFIA's variety registration database
 - Health Canada's list of 'not novel' decisions
 - Health Canada's new Transparency Initiative (proposed in March 2021)
- MCA encourages CropLife Canada and Seeds Canada to follow best management practices for launching products of plant breeding innovations in Canada. More specifically:
- Consider any product regulated in an export market (biotech or gene edited) in scope
 - Ensure seed developers consult the value chain no later than six months prior to initiating sale of seed
 - Recognize that key markets need to be identified prior to launch of a new product in Canada
 - Provide for a market analysis and discussion of market impacts with the value chain
- (Source: https://a2k9b9g7.rocketcdn.me/wp-content/uploads/CropLife_2021_report_commercializing-plant-products-V4.1-1.pdf)

