

Message

From: Matthews, Keith [KMatthews@wileyrein.com]
Sent: 3/23/2018 3:55:50 PM
To: Beck, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=168ecb5184ac44de95a913297f353745-Beck, Nancy]; Bolen, Derrick [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ffc58b0468c4deca51a8bad735b7d95-Bolen, Derr]
Subject: Fwd: CAST Releases New Issue Paper: "Regulatory Barriers to the Development of Innovative Agricultural Biotechnology by Small Businesses and Universities"
Flag: Flag for follow up

Nancy,

Thanks again for taking the time to speak with our Committee this morning. I know how busy you are, and for us to get an hour and a half of your time is greatly appreciated.

Forwarded below is the CAST announcement yesterday of the release of the biotech regulations paper.

Best regards

Keith

Keith Matthews
Wiley Rein LLP

Sent from mobile device, please excuse typographical errors.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology <msly@cast-science.org>
Date: March 22, 2018 at 10:24:35 EDT
To: kmatthews@wileyrein.com
Subject: CAST Releases New Issue Paper: "Regulatory Barriers to the Development of Innovative Agricultural Biotechnology by Small Businesses and Universities"
Reply-To: msly@cast-science.org

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The Science Source for Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

Regulatory Barriers to the Development of Innovative Agricultural Biotechnology by Small Businesses and Universities

March 22, 2018, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa

The scientific community is overwhelmingly positive about biotech plant breeding and the benefits for farmers, consumers, and the environment. But the authors of this paper demonstrate that the current process-based U.S. biotechnology regulatory system is a barrier to such agricultural innovation. The regulatory system needs to be adjusted, or "public, academic, and small business entities will continue to be frustrated in using these safe tools to deliver useful products."

This report examines the current U.S. regulatory system for genetically engineered (GE) crops, compares it with those of major trading partners, and considers the effects it has on agricultural biotechnology. In theory, scientifically sound regulations serve the public good by assuring safety while not stifling innovation. But current regulations are sometimes based on spurious, undocumented risks--onerous, expensive regulations discourage innovation, especially in small businesses and universities.

Led by Task Force Chair Alan McHughen, these experts show that despite foundational contributions requiring considerable public resource commitments for GE crop innovation and development, academic institutions and small private entities have been almost entirely excluded from the agricultural biotechnology market.

This issue paper explains the problem by examining several key topics:

- the history of GE or genetically modified development and regulations
- evidence that genetic engineering in plants is safe and beneficial
- the need for better record keeping and communication about management and practices
- the problem of inconsistent and costly regulations--by U.S. and international agencies
- poor regulatory practices that hinder production and commerce--and lead to trade disputes
- unfair labeling practices that influence consumer perceptions and negatively affect research and development--especially for academic institutions and small businesses



Download this [CAST Issue Paper](#) or [Ag quickCAST](#).

Unreasonable barriers result in biotech innovation projects that have been slowed down or shelved. Regulations need to align with the stated public policy goal of reasonably assuring safety--in a way that is commensurate with the degree of risk posed. Otherwise, public, academic, and small business entities will continue to be frustrated in using these safe and beneficial tools. The 35-year history of public and small private investment in agricultural biotechnology will continue to be squandered.

This [CAST Issue Paper \(IP59\)](#) and its companion [Ag quickCAST](#) are available online at the CAST website, along with many of CAST's other scientific publications. CAST Issue Papers, Commentaries, and Ag quickCASTs are FREE.

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