

3.2.2**New breeding techniques****1. FSANZ technical workshops on new breeding techniques**

- NBTs refer to a variety of recently developed methods that are being used in plant and animal breeding. Crop plants and livestock developed using these methods are rapidly approaching commercialisation in Australia and New Zealand and some crops are already commercialised overseas.
- There is ongoing debate and uncertainty about whether these techniques are captured by current gene technology regulations, including Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using gene technology.
- In 2012 and 2013, FSANZ hosted two technical workshops with invited experts to consider NBTs. The purpose of the workshops was to enhance FSANZ's understanding of the techniques and any food products derived from them. A list of experts and their research interests is at Attachment 1.
- The techniques discussed were cisgenesis/ intragenesis; GM rootstock grafting; oligo-directed mutagenesis; reverse breeding, a number of targeted mutagenic techniques, accelerated breeding following early flowering, agro-infiltration; and a proprietary hybrid production technique known as seed production technology.
- Experts also considered the scientific question of whether foods derived from plants developed using the above techniques should be regarded as GM food, or whether they are more like conventional food. The reports of both workshops are available on the FSANZ website.
- One of the scientific conclusions from these workshops was that some of the techniques (e.g. gene editing techniques, accelerated breeding, reverse breeding and seed production technology) may give rise to food products that are very similar or no different to conventional foods.

2. FSANZ workshop with jurisdictions on NBTs

- As part of its consideration of the regulatory issues surrounding NBTs, FSANZ is trying to establish which of the techniques (if any) are captured by the standard as currently drafted so that product developers can determine if they need to submit an application to FSANZ for pre-market approval. This is not straightforward because the definitions in the standard are ambiguous in relation to certain NBTs, such as gene editing.
- FSANZ held a workshop with the jurisdictions (who have responsibility for interpreting and enforcing the Code) on 31 August 2016 to discuss the regulatory status of NBTs under Standard 1.5.2.
- The primary purpose of the workshop was to discuss the development of a technical framework for deciding which techniques are captured by Standard 1.5.2. It is proposed this framework could be used to provide greater clarity and transparency for stakeholders around the scope of the standard.

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- FSANZ will continue to discuss the development of the framework with jurisdictions. Once agreed and finalised, a possible mechanism for providing this information to stakeholders, especially product developers, would be through the FSANZ *Application Handbook*, where it could be included as technical guidance to help determine if an application is required. Any changes to the Handbook are considered through a public process, and include public consultation.

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■ S22 [REDACTED] S22 [REDACTED]
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Outcome: 1–1 Population Health

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