

1 December 2021

Submission on the FSANZ call for comment on changing the definitions for genetically modified food

Submitter: Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

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Introduction

1. Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) advocates for and represents the interests of New Zealand's 6,000 commercial fruit and vegetable growers.
2. The horticulture industry is valued at \$6.73 billion, employs more than 60,000 people, and grows fruit, berries and vegetables on 80,000 hectares of land. It is an integral part of the regional economies in Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Manawatu, Marlborough, Nelson, Canterbury and Central Otago.
3. New Zealand growers supply both the domestic market and consumers around the world with fresh, healthy produce.

General comments

4. HortNZ understands that Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) is seeking views on a proposal to amend the definitions for 'food produced using gene technology' and 'gene technology' in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.
5. HortNZ is interested in keeping abreast of any proposed changes in the gene technology space. This area is very relevant to horticulture and it is important for us to maintain awareness of what is happening in this area both domestically and in offshore markets.
6. HortNZ understands that FSANZ has not developed new definitions nor made any decisions on specific amendments to the Code, and that these will be informed by feedback received through the first round of public consultation.
7. HortNZ will consider our position on the proposed amendments once more detail is available, but in the meantime, we wish to remain engaged in the consultation process.

ENDS