



# **Lessons learned from the European Commission consultations: The question of sustainability**

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## European Commission study on “New Genomic Techniques” (April 2021)

Planned deregulation:

- ◉ Exempting NGTs from GMO legislation 2001/18
- ◉ Only some NGTs would undergo risk assessment

Sustainability = main argument for deregulation

- ◉ *“Plants obtained by **NGTs** have the potential to contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal [...] for a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system.”*

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## Appraisal by Testbiotech:

- **Promises seem exaggerated**  
While NGTs have a big potential for genetic changes, it is not easy to translate this potential into actual benefits.
- **Risks for environment & health**  
currently not taken into account sufficiently.
- To be sustainable, NGT crops need to be safe **AND** bring real benefits for food systems **AT THE SAME TIME.**





## How to define and measure sustainability?

*« A purely safety-based risk assessment may not be enough to promote sustainability and contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal and in particular the 'farm to fork' and biodiversity strategies; **benefits contributing to sustainability would also need to be evaluated, so an appropriate mechanism to accompany risk assessment may be required.** »*

- European Commission study on NGTs (2021)



## How to define and measure sustainability?

*6. In your view, which of the following traits are most relevant for contributing to sustainability?*

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	No opinion /I do not know	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
* Tolerance/resistance to biotic stresses (e.g. plant diseases caused by nematodes, fungi, bacteria, viruses, pests)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Tolerance/resistance to abiotic stresses (e.g. to climate change or environmental conditions in general, such as drought, heat, cold, salt)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Better use of resources (such as water, nitrogen)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Tolerance/resistance to plant protection products such as herbicides or insecticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Better yield or other agronomic					

Source: EU Commission public consultation on NGTs, April-July 2022



**Thanks for listening!**