



New Genomic Techniques

What benefits for SMEs in the agri-food sector?

Online event

26th April 2022
15:00 - 16:15 CET
09:00 - 10:15 ET

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) such as gene editing are promising technologies to deliver on the goals of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. For example, NGTs can be used to develop new crop varieties that are less dependent on chemical inputs and with improved atmospheric carbon sequestration potential.

In the EU, NGTs are currently regulated as conventional GMOs, which has made it difficult, even for large companies, to develop and market new crop varieties or improve existing crop varieties in the EU. Even carrying out Research & Development activities on NGTs in the EU is challenging. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) have been completely excluded from this field as they lack the resources to ensure compliance with burdensome requirements.

As a result, startups and SMEs like **Covercress** on the other side of the Atlantic are leading current R&D efforts in this field and are developing new and more sustainable crop varieties that promise benefits for farmers, consumers, and the environment. An enabling legislative framework on NGTs at EU level could help to make the market more competitive and allow EU SMEs to fully participate in the R&D efforts that will be necessary to create a more sustainable food system.

Event Host



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