



Summary of meeting conclusions
Beyond GM PBVL Consultation meetings
2-3 April 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended our web meeting on the consultation for a proposed precision-bred plant varieties framework. We were so pleased with the number of people who attended and the high level of engagement.

The meetings highlighted significant concerns about the proposed approach to PBOs, emphasising the need for mandatory, transparent mechanisms to protect agricultural diversity and consumer choice.

We hope the concerns and comments expressed during the meetings – summarised below – help bring focus to your response to the consultation.

REMEMBER: The consultation closes 14 April at 11:59pm

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OVERARCHING THEMES

1. Mandatory Listing and Labelling

- Critical for maintaining supply chain transparency
- Essential for consumer choice and trust
- Necessary for traceability of genetically modified precision-bred organisms (GM-PBOs)

2. Regulatory Concerns

- PBOs are defined as GMOs in the Genetic Technology Act but exempted from GMO regulations
- PBOs are currently classified as GMOs in organic standards
- PBOs are still classified as GMOs in the devolved nations
- Potential pressure to change organic regulations
- Deregulation has undermined traceability of GM-PBOs through the food supply chain
- Lack of traceability risks undermining agricultural integrity for organic, artisanal and non-GMO breeders and producers
- Lack of traceability creates unique problems for breeders/producers in devolved nations

3. Supply Chain Implications

- Significant challenges for seed producers, organic farmers, and certification bodies
- Potential increased costs and complexity of production
- Risk of contamination and loss of organic certification

4. Business and Consumer Perspectives

- Need to protect diverse agricultural practices
- Importance of maintaining non-GMO and organic options
- Potential economic risks from lack of clear identification

5. Political Context

- Ongoing regulatory debates in UK and EU
- EU approach to regulation may not follow UK approach
- Potential divergence between UK and EU has trade implications

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Widespread engagement with consultation
- We need to be united in asking for a mandatory listing of PBO varieties and labelling of GM-PBO seeds
- We need to build strong business case against voluntary guidelines
- Emphasise a need for comprehensive, searchable PBO lists
- Maintain a united front across organic and agroecological sectors
- Reach out to seed companies, farming networks etc to respond to the consultation
- Send a copy of your submission to your MP explaining why this is important

In addition to this summary, you will have received by email:

- The PowerPoint slides shown at the meetings
- Separate guidance on how to respond – noting how ‘tricky’ some of the questions are.

Please reach out to/share with your colleagues and ask them to respond to the consultation too!

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