

WHEAT BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

Statement of American, Australian and Canadian Organizations
June 5, 2014

In 2009, nine organizations representing wheat farmers and millers from the United States, Canada and Australia voiced support for the future commercialization of biotechnology in wheat. Additional organizations have joined to reconfirm and update that commitment. As industry leaders and consumers, the undersigned organizations are united to responsibly advance wheat innovation.



American Farm Bureau Federation
National Association of Wheat
Growers
National Farmers Union
North American Millers Association
U.S. Wheat Associates



Canadian National Millers Association
Cereals Canada
Grain Farmers of Ontario
Grain Growers of Canada
Western Canadian Wheat
Growers Association



AgForce Queensland
Grain Growers Limited
Grain Producers Australia
Grain Producers SA
Pastoral and Graziers Association
of Western Australia
Victorian Farmers Federation
Grains Group

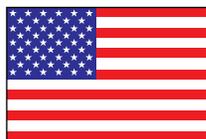


- 1. We support and encourage the use of innovation to help solve pressing problems to address global food security needs.** Wheat is an essential part of the global diet, representing about 20% of daily caloric intake. As demand increases, we must find ways to ensure it remains abundant while meeting the highest quality and nutrition standards. In addition to protecting the continued availability of wheat foods, wheat enhanced through biotechnology ultimately offers the promise of improved products, more sustainable production and environmental benefits.
- 2. We are encouraged by numerous investments in wheat research since 2009.** We applaud the increasing private and public investment to grow more and better quality wheat safely, responsibly and in a more sustainable manner through the use of less water, fertilizer, fuel and pesticides. Research investments range from advanced breeding techniques to biotechnology traits aimed at improving productivity and end-use qualities.
- 3. We encourage exporting and importing nations to maintain sound, science-based biotech regulatory systems.** Regulations that provide a sensible framework and predictable approval process are necessary to bring new technology to the marketplace. Biotech wheat will be subject to rigorous scientific testing as well as extensive government approval processes before it is available anywhere in the world. Additional regulations and oversight are not needed as biotech wheat will be developed with the same proven technologies that have been safely used on many other crops.
- 4. We encourage expediting the adoption of reasonable low level presence (LLP) policies in exporting and importing nations to minimize trade disruptions resulting from asynchronous approvals.** This would ensure that trade can continue uninterrupted for commodities like wheat that may contain traces of existing biotech traits approved in accordance with international guidelines by an exporting country.

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5. **We believe the use of biotechnology to improve wheat is as safe as conventional practices.** More than 15 years of commercial production and peer-reviewed scientific research show this technology is safe for the environment and consumption. Over one trillion meals have been consumed without a single reported incident and studies have found that biotechnology and products derived from biotechnology have not caused any legitimate food safety concerns.
6. **We understand choice is paramount.** We envision both biotech and non-biotech wheat coexisting within our current production, grain handling, exporting and processing sectors to meet specific customer demands. We support choice and are committed to ensuring customers have access to both biotech and non-biotech wheat delivered through reasonable tolerance levels.
7. **We share the goal of synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in our wheat crops and timely regulatory approval for those traits in importing countries.** The coordinated introduction of biotech wheat will help maintain a healthy and competitive global marketplace. We recognize that we are still at the early stages of a process that could last up to a decade, but we remain committed to responsibly advance wheat innovation.

The world needs innovative solutions to meet the growing global demand for wheat foods amidst rising environmental, population and economic pressures. We are committed to a constructive dialogue with our customers, producers and value chain members to responsibly work together on wheat innovation, including biotech trait commercialization.



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