



# Sustainable agriculture: Challenges and opportunities of plant biotechnology in Europe

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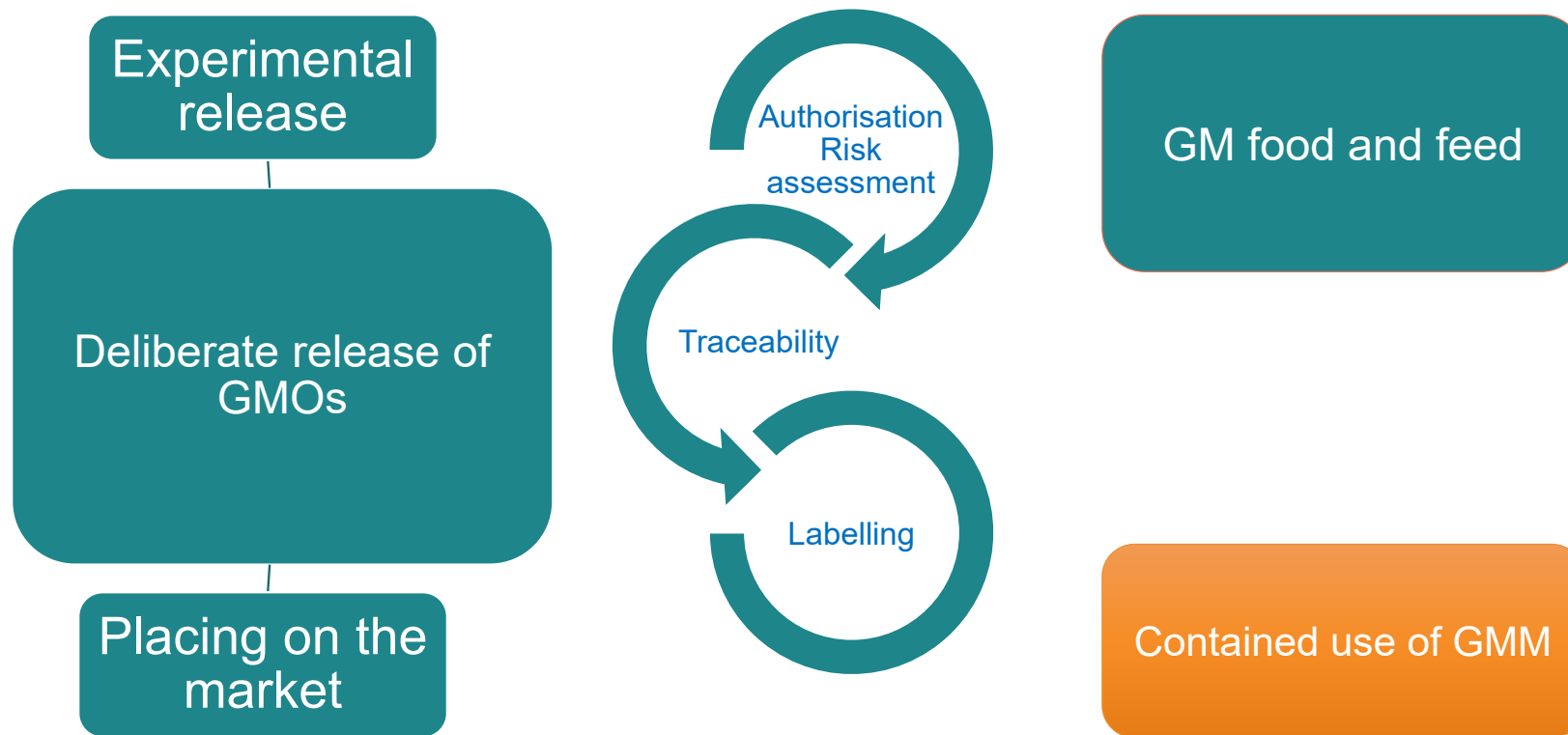
*Sustainable solutions to protect crops*

*9-11 March 2021*

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# The EU GMO legislation



# The regulatory status of genome edited products

# Case C-528/16 on mutagenesis

## Preliminary ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU

The Court clarified that:

- organisms obtained by techniques/methods of mutagenesis are GMOs within the meaning of the GMO Directive.
- only organisms obtained by means of techniques of mutagenesis which have conventionally been used in a number of applications and have a long safety record are excluded from the scope of that directive.



In the light of the ruling ... organisms obtained by **new** mutagenesis techniques, including **genome editing**, are GMOs subject to the obligations of the GMO legislation.

# The Commission study on new genomic techniques (NGTs)

# Council request on NGTs

- Decision of the Council of November 2019 requesting a Commission study, by 30 April 2021, on the status of new genomic techniques.
- Court of Justice of the EU ruling:
  - Legal clarity
  - Practical questions with consequences for competent authorities in the Member States, the Union's industry, in particular in the plant breeding sector, research and other sectors.



# The Commission study on NGTs

Provides an opportunity to assess the status of these techniques from different perspectives, including:



Potential  
benefits and  
concerns



Implementation  
and enforcement  
of the GMO  
legislation



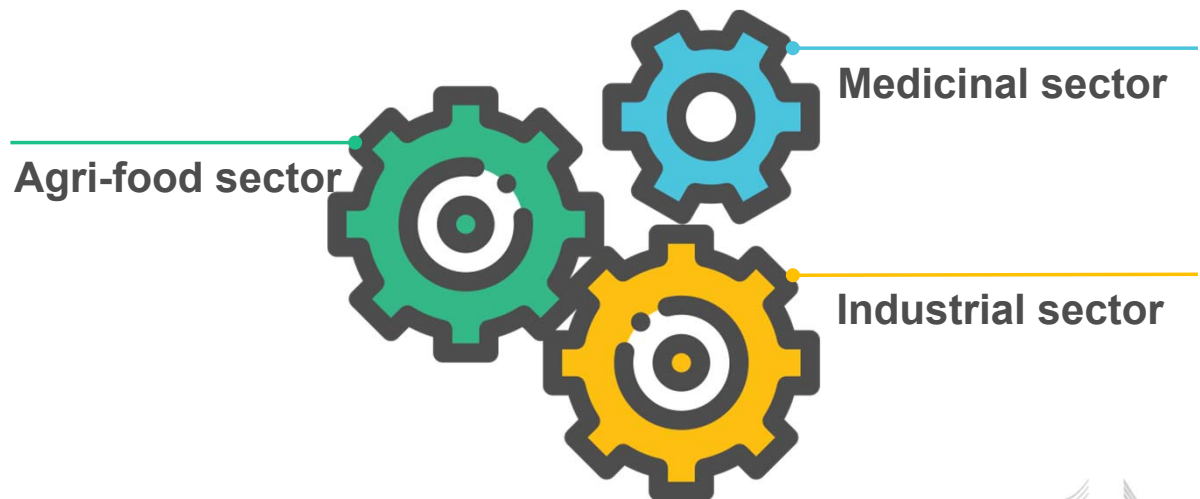
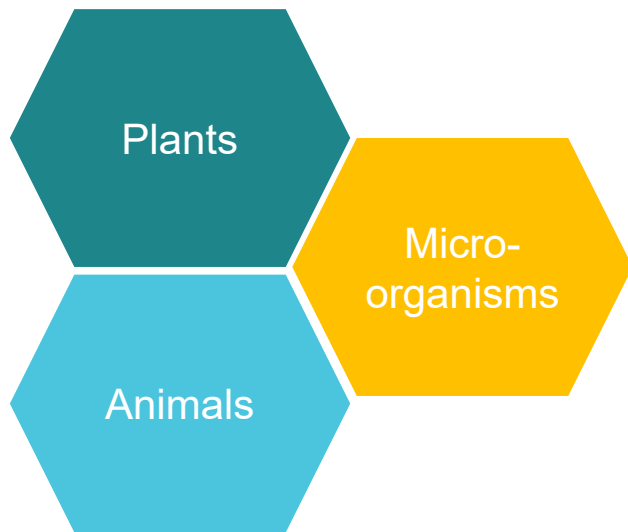
Overview on  
existing opinions  
on risk  
assessment



Scientific and  
technological  
developments

Targeted stakeholders' consultation

# Scope of the study



# Commission study on NGTs



Due by end of April 2021

## Follow-up requested by the Council



# European Green Deal Farm to Fork Strategy

The EU needs to develop innovative ways to protect harvests from pests and diseases and to consider the potential role of innovative techniques to improve the sustainability of the food systems, while ensuring that they are safe.

# Thank you



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Slides 6 and 12: image, source: GettyImages

