

An increasing number of countries have finalized policies focused on specific applications of genome editing. Still others are in the process of reviewing current policies, legislation and regulations to determine if any revisions or changes are needed. At the same time, the range of possible uses of genome editing in breeding programs is evolving and expanding as technology matures. Genome editing is known for its use in precisely inducing change to a specific gene(s) in a plant's genome. However, it can also be used by researchers for basic gene discovery. It can be used to identify a gene in a plant's wild relatives and then precisely recreate that gene into existing commercial varieties. It may be used in the future to maximize the performance of a crop in a given set of environments. And it may be used in the future to make breeding processes themselves more efficient by breaking detrimental genetic linkages.

This workshop will focus on: 1) governments' policy experience regarding seed products developed with the use of genome editing; 2) the experience of developers to date; and 3) what the future holds for genome editing applications and resultant policy implications. The session is meant to be interactive with adequate time allowed for panel discussions and an open interaction with workshop participants. The goal is to use the session as a start toward discussions on learning from current policy implementation and how best to "future proof" policies.

ISF is planning to organize this session in cooperation with CropLife International