

Media Release



Response to the latest edition of The True Food Guide

Melbourne, 25 November 2008: Australia's Biotechnology Industry Organisation, AusBiotech, today called for a continuation of the science-based approach to any debate about food labelling of genetically modified foods.

Genetic Modification or GM is used in a broad range of applications from the production of therapeutic vaccines against viruses, new high-yield, drought-tolerant crops for farmers through to industrial enzyme production.

“Australia has a sensible science-based regulatory system for food labelling which allows consumers to make informed purchasing decisions,” said AusBiotech Chief Executive Officer Dr Anna Lavelle. “Therefore there is absolutely no need to modify this successful system.”

Australia has a robust regulatory system based on international best practice using principles followed by other jurisdictions such as Canada, the EU, Japan, Korea and the US.

Dr Lavelle cautioned against moving from a sensible science-based regulatory system to one that increased complexity and costs for consumers and producers.

“AusBiotech believes Australia has a very thorough science-based regulatory system that assesses GM foods on a case by case basis,” she said.

“The current Australian labelling standards provide choice to consumers, allow food producing companies to provide choice while at the same time giving farmers the choice to use the technology,” Dr Lavelle said.

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