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CSPI Calls for National Registry of Gene-Edited Agricultural Crops

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- Criticizing the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for lack of oversight over foods produced with gene editing technology (e.g., Zinc Finger Nucleases, TALENS, or CRISPR/Cas 9), the [Center for Science in the Public Interest \(CSPI\)](#) is calling for a federal registry of all gene-edited agricultural crops.
- CSPI is not requesting a registry of genetically-modified (GM) agricultural crops, which CSPI notes are subject to government oversight under 7 CFR Part 340 of USDA's regulations and which are evaluated by FDA under its voluntary plant biotechnology consultation program. It is focused on gene-edited crops in particular because they have not historically been subject to 7 CFR Part 340 or any other mandatory federal regulations. According to CSPI, at least 11 developers of gene-edited crops have gone through USDA's "[Am I regulated?](#)" process to inquire into whether they are subject to USDA regulations on GM crops, and all have been informed that they are outside of the scope of those regulations.
- Consistent with a recent FDA [reminder](#) encouraging industry to participate in its voluntary consultation program in part to foster public confidence in the safety of biotechnology, CSPI is encouraging the establishment of the registry to "allay consumer concerns about this emerging technology and allow the benefits of this new technology to be realized."



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