

## **Global LLP Initiative (GLI) Communiqué on Approaches to Reduce Asynchronous Authorizations in Food and Feed Derived From Recombinant DNA (rDNA) Plants<sup>1</sup>**

1. The objective of this communiqué is to offer a broad range of potential approaches for governments, technology developers and other stakeholders to consider to minimize occurrences of asynchronous authorizations of food and feed derived from recombinant DNA (rDNA) plants.
2. The number and complexity of rDNA plants being developed, cultivated, and traded worldwide is increasing annually. However, the timing of authorizations differs across countries.
3. For the purposes of this communiqué, an asynchronous authorization is a situation where there is a regulatory authorization of a rDNA plant intended for food and feed use in the country of origin and no corresponding authorization in a country of import.
4. Asynchronous authorizations can delay commercialization of new rDNA plants as well as create the potential for trade disruptions arising from the low-level presence (LLP) of unauthorized rDNA plants in food and feed shipments.<sup>2</sup>
5. We re-affirm our position that reducing asynchronous authorizations is the most effective way of reducing trade disruptions due to LLP.<sup>2</sup>
6. GLI member countries are committed to exploring practical approaches to reduce asynchrony in authorizations in the context of food and feed safety, recognizing that because of respective national laws, particular approaches to reducing asynchronous authorizations may not be feasible or applicable for an individual country.
7. Asynchronous authorizations result predominantly from differences among countries in regulatory and legal requirements for the assessment and authorization of rDNA plants for food and feed.
8. The approaches in the table below<sup>3</sup> may be considered by governments, technology developers, and other stakeholders, as practical means to help reduce occurrences of asynchronous authorizations, recognizing that individual countries need to devise measures consistent with their domestic legal requirements, and acknowledging that regulatory approaches to rDNA plants should provide transparent and predictable timeframes for decision

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<sup>1</sup> The Global LLP Initiative (GLI) was formed in 2012 and consists of governments that have pledged to work collaboratively on the issue of low-level presence (LLP) to facilitate international trade of food and feed by developing practical approaches, designed to address LLP globally. The current 15 GLI member countries are: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, United States of America, Uruguay and Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> *International Statement on Low Level Presence*. <http://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/international-statement-low-level-presence>.

<sup>3</sup> All approaches presented here are meant to be consistent with, and encourage the use of, international science-based guidelines on LLP, such as the *Codex Alimentarius Annex 3: Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-Level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food*.

making, be science-based, no more trade restrictive than necessary to fulfill legitimate objectives, and consistent with relevant international obligations.