

Food Safety  
assessment of  
food derived  
from GM  
animals and  
Nutrition  
Considerations

## **Fourth International Workshop on Regulatory Approaches for Agricultural Applications of Animal Biotechnologies**

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# Principles for Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology

**Risk assessment**

**Risk management**

**Risk communication**

**Consistency**

**Capacity building and information exchange**

**Review processes**

Sources: Foods derived from modern biotechnology

GUIDELINE FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOODS DERIVED FROM RECOMBINANT-DNA ANIMALS-  
**CAC/GL 68-2008**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE ADDITION OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS TO FOODS **CAC/GL 9-1987**

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**Recombinant-DNA animal** means an animal in which the genetic material has been changed through *in vitro* nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles.

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**Conventional counterpart** means an animal breed with a known history of safe use as food from which the recombinant-DNA animal line was derived, as well as the breeding partners used in generating the animals ultimately used as food, and/or food derived from such animals.

**Nutrient** means any substance normally consumed as a constituent of food:

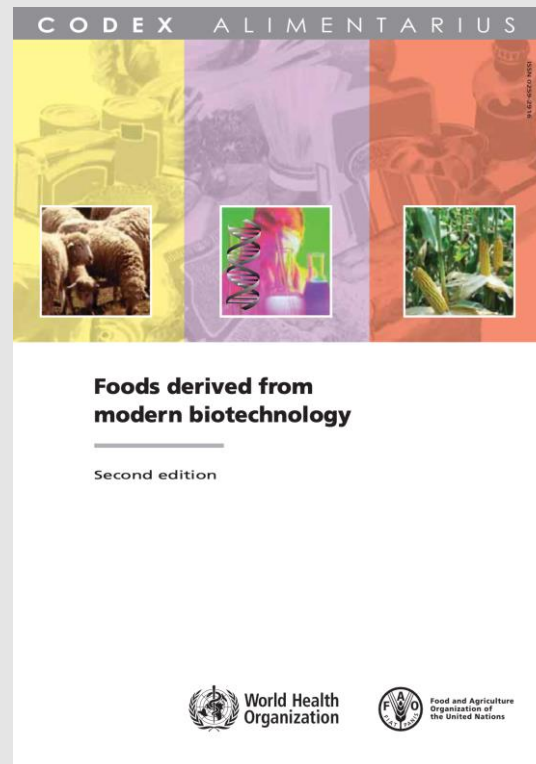
- a) that provides energy; or
- b) that is needed for growth and development and maintenance of healthy life; or
- c) a deficit of which will cause characteristic biochemical or physiological changes to occur.

# Framework of food safety assessment

Source:  
GUIDELINE FOR THE CONDUCT OF  
FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF  
FOODS DERIVED FROM  
RECOMBINANT-DNA ANIMALS-  
**CAC/GL 68-2008**

pg 57 – 76

<https://www.fao.org/sustainable-food-value-chains/library/details/en/c/265868/>



- A. general description of the recombinant-DNA animal;
- B. description of the recipient animal prior to the modification and its use as food or for food production;
- C. description of the donor organism or other source(s) of the introduced recombinant- DNA ;
- D. description of the genetic modification(s) including the construct(s) used to introduce the recombinant-DNA;
- E. description of the methods used to produce the initial recombinant-DNA animal and the processes to produce the recombinant-DNA animal ultimately used as food or for food production;
- F. characterization of the genetic modification(s) in the recombinant-DNA animal ultimately used as food or for food production;
- G. **Safety assessment:**
  - a) health status of the recombinant-DNA animal,
  - b) expressed substances (non-nucleic acid substances),
  - c) compositional analyses of key components,
  - d) food storage and processing, and
  - e) intended nutritional modification;
- H. Other considerations.

# Additional considerations for the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from r-DNA animals Modified for Nutritional or Health Benefits

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a) the recombinant-DNA animal exhibits a particular trait in portion(s) of the animal intended for food use; and

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b) the trait is a result of:

(i) introduction of a new nutrient(s) or related substance(s),

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(ii) alteration of either the quantity or bioavailability of a nutrient(s) or related substance(s),

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(iii) removal or reduction of undesirable substance(s) (e.g. allergens or toxicants), or

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(iv) alteration of the interaction(s) of nutritional or health relevance of these substances.

- a) Identification of **new or altered hazards** relative to the conventional counterpart ;
- b) r--DNA animals modified for nutritional or health benefits result in food products with a composition that may be significantly different from their conventional counterparts, so choice of an **appropriate comparator** is of a great importance for the safety assessemnt;
- c) Upper levels of intake and public health implications of exceeding this levels and ADI (acceptable daily intake);
- d) **Bioavailability of the nutrient(s)**, related substance(s) or undesirable substance(s) in the food that were the subject of the modification in the r-DNA animal might be established, where appropriate.
- e) **Dietary exposure assessment** is the estimation of the concentration of the nutrient(s) or related substance(s) in a food, the expected or foreseeable consumption of that food, and any known factors that influence bioavailability . Exposure should be evaluated in a contexto of the total diet and the assessment based on the customary dietary composition .
- f) **Consumption patterns** will vary from country to country depending on the importance of the food in the diet(s) of a given population(s).
- g) Assessments of **different consumption scenarios** , considering changes in bioavailability and distribution of exposures within the relevant population.



- Gene-edited pigs, above, have been made resistant to the PRRS virus - a deadly pig disease. Photograph: Murdo Macleod/The Guardian

Rosita Isa, a cow genetically modified to produce human-like milk. Photograph: INTA (National Agricultural Technology Institute Argentina)

A genetically modified mosquito emerges from its pupa. Photograph: Oxitec



FDA has determined that food from the AquAdvantage Salmon and the GalSafe pig are as safe and nutritious to eat as food from non-GMO salmon and pigs



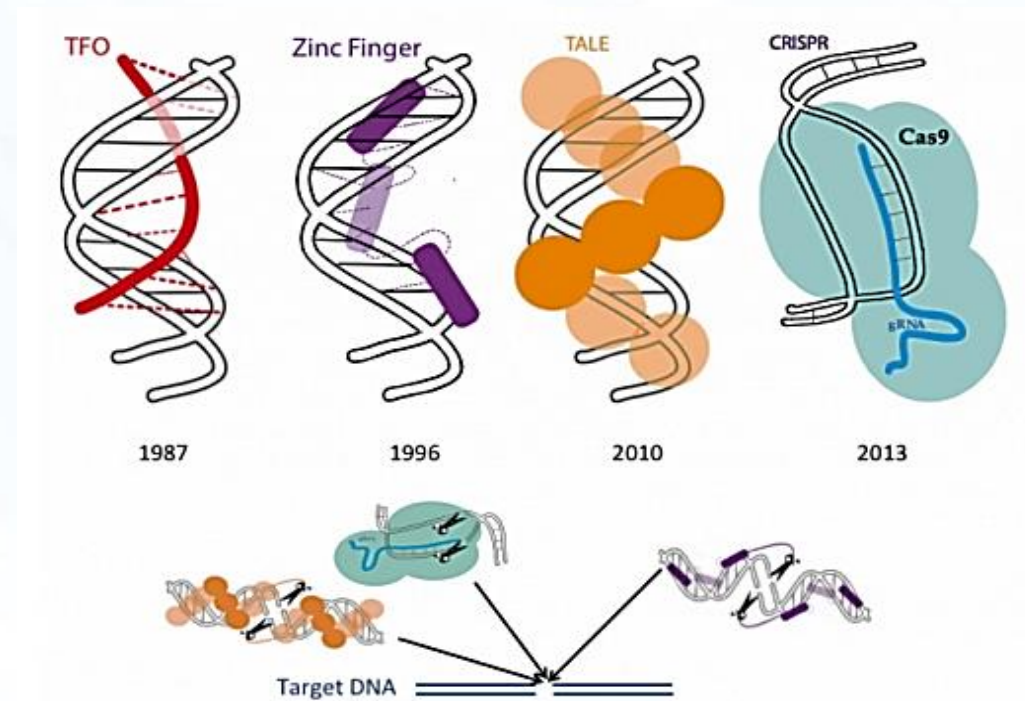
Gene-edited chicks at the Roslin Institute. Photograph: Courtesy of Valerie White/Norrie Russell/Roslin Institute

GalSafe pig for human food consumption and potential therapeutic uses.

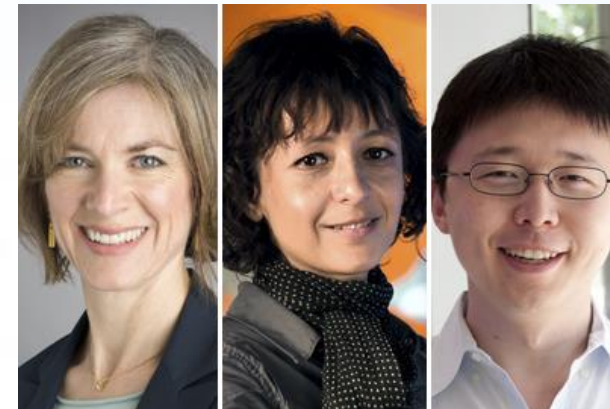
One of AquaBounty's genetically engineered salmon behind a regular salmon of the same age. Photograph: AquaBounty Technologies

## ... CRISPRs

Technology brought a revolution in Genome Editing and is democratizing the use of biotechnology in agriculture



The guidelines for the assessment of r-DNA animals **might not apply** to New Breeding Techniques including CRISPR, so national and regional legislation should be considered.



Jennifer Doudna

Emmanuelle Charpentier

Feng Zhang



# Agronomic Biofortification

Enrichment of food of animal origin with biologically active compounds, for the production of eggs, milk, or meat enriched with ingredients such as polyunsaturated fatty acids, vitamins, and /or macro- and micronutrients.

Biofortification of **milk and cheese** with micro elements (**Cu, Mn Zn**) to prevent from micronutrient deficiencies.

Dairy cattle fed with supplemented with **omega-3** generate milk with higher omega-3 content.

Biofortification of **eggs** with **Vitamin K** ;

**Eggs with higher Omega 3 and 6 Omega-3** - by hens fed a diet with flaxseed

**Consumption of provitamin A carotenoid biofortified crops, such as maize, supports vitamin A (VA) status in animals and humans.**  
Laying hens that consume  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin–biofortified maize deposit  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin into egg yolk

**Biofortification of meat with vitamin D**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4573109/>

<https://www.mdpi.com/2304-8158/9/11/1619>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330729531\\_Biofortification\\_of\\_meat\\_with\\_vitamin\\_D](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330729531_Biofortification_of_meat_with_vitamin_D)

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jchem/2018/8084127/>



# GM Salmon

**nature** International weekly journal of science

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Archive > Volume 548 > Issue 7666 > News > Article

NATURE | NEWS

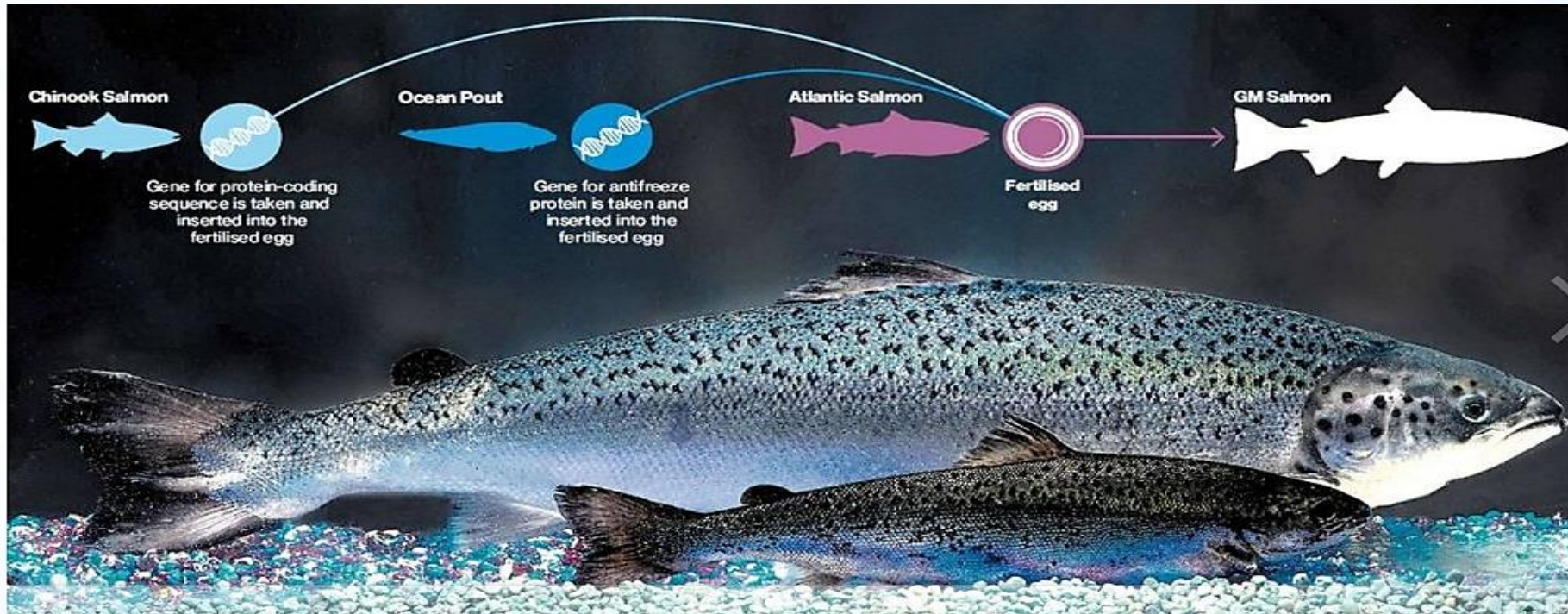
## First genetically engineered salmon sold in Canada

US firm AquaBounty Technologies says that its transgenic fish has hit the market after a 25-year wait.

Emily Waltz

04 August 2017

**Approved for consumption in Brazil on May 2021**





*Aedes* sp. First GM insect GM (sterile male) released in Brasil

## Authorized for commercial use in Brazil (March 2021)

GM Male Sterile Carterpillar (Lagarta do cartucho)  
*Spodoptera frugiperda*

First LPMA for authorized research in May 2019 by CTNBio



intrexon



Considered Non GM by CTNBio  
(2019)

# Genome Edited Tilapia

While AquaBounty's GMO salmon remains blocked in US, Argentina exempts the company's sustainable gene-edited tilapia from regulation

Fish Farming Expert | December 19, 2018



Image Credit: Medium



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## Gene edited tilapia secure GMO exemption

REGULATIONS POLITICS GENETICS & BREEDING BIOTECHNOLOGY

F by The Fish Site  
18 December 2018, at 2:06p.m.

A line of tilapia that has been gene edited will not be classified as a genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Argentina, according to a government advisory commission.



The line, known as FLT 01, has been developed by [Intrexon](#) and its subsidiary [AquaBounty Technologies.](#), the biotechnology company best known for its AquaAdvantage salmon strain. The tilapia were developed using gene editing

Myostatin gene  
Natural Mutation



Bovine breed  
Belgian blue bull

# Take Home Messages

- **Risk Analysis Principles** – should always be considered;
- **Guideline for the conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from recombinant-DNA Animals-CAC/GL 68-2008** ;
- **Framework of food safety assessment** – should always be considered;
- **General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods CAC/GL 9-1987**;
- **r-DNA animals Modified for Nutritional or Health Benefits** - Bioavailability of the nutrient(s), appropriate comparator, dietary exposure assessment, Upper levels and ADI, consumption patterns and different consumption scenarios;
- **r-DNA animals Modified for Nutritional for Health Benefits** are not substantial equivalent to the comparator;
- **New breeding Techniques may not** require Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from recombinant-DNA Animals and should be evaluated in a **case by case basis**.
- **Agronomic Biofortification** - alternative for nutrition enhancement.

Thank you, gracias, obrigada ... [marilia.nutti@embrapa.br](mailto:marilia.nutti@embrapa.br)