Appendix V

CFSAN/Biotech

Spec Concepts for Focus Groups

*Regulatory Process* v5

Headline: **The Federal government– EPA, FDA, and USDA – ensures that genetically**

**modified crops are safe and that people, food, the environment, and animals are**

**protected.**

To ensure safety:

• Government expert scientists keep up with research to make sure they have the most recent information on whether a GM product could affect humans, food, the environment, nearby crops, or animals.

• The opinion of independent academic scientists on how government experts should evaluate GM products is considered.

• All the public comments, and information about scientific reviews, recommendations and conclusions by government and independent scientific experts is available for the public to see.

• The public can participate in the federal oversight process by providing scientific information to regulators.

• All developers in the farm to table chain have a legal duty to market safe foods, regardless of the process by which the food is created. FDA offers a voluntary premarket consultation program for GMO plant food developers to help them meet their legal obligations.

• GM crops that raise environmental safety questions are monitored in controlled field testing to ensure they are safe, before the crop can be put into large scale commercial use.

• When warranted, parts of government continue oversight of certain GM products even after they are put into large scale commercial use.

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Appendix V

CFSAN/Biotech

Spec Concepts for Focus Groups

*Views,* v3

Headline: **What are some of the views in the GMO discussion?**

Copy:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| One view might say… | Another view might say… | Here is some scientific context… | |
| Bioengineered (BE) food is just an advancement on traditional breeding techniques. | Foods were not developed using laboratory-based methods until bioengineered (BE) food came along. | Laboratory methods were used to produce new food varieties well before the advent of bioengineered (BE) food.  Some traditional breeding methods rely on laboratory-based techniques.  Production of BE food relies on both new methods as well as traditional breeding techniques. | |
| Companies perform safety studies on GMOs prior to marketing to ensure that they are safe. | The companies that make the GMO seeds are the ones verifying their safety | The companies that develop the GMOs are responsible for doing studies on the safety of GMOs. Governments have the responsibility of evaluating the studies. | |
| Foods from GMOs currently on the market are safe. | There are questions about the safety of foods from GMOs currently on the market. | FDA has found the foods from GMOs it has evaluated are safe and lawful.  A 2016 National Academies of Science panel found that there is no higher danger to human health from eating foods from GMOs than from other foods. | |
| BE foods are only developed by large companies. | BE foods can be developed by large companies, as well as smaller entities (small companies or universities). | While many BE foods have been developed by larger companies, some BE foods have been developed by smaller entities. An example of such a crop is a bioengineered papaya grown in Hawaii that was developed by university scientists. |

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Appendix V

CFSAN/Biotech

Spec Concepts for Focus Groups

*Different Voices,* v3

Headline: **Agricultural biotechnology. It means something different to everyone.**

Copy:

Iowa Corn Farmer: With agricultural biotech, my seeds cost more but I still have higher profits because I lose less to pests.

Government Official: Around agricultural biotechnology products and processes, the review and vetting process is appropriate to ensure the safety of people, animals, crops and the environment.

Mother of Three: I don’t know a lot about the health implications of biotech foods and the information is confusing. Why can’t farmers grow foods the old-fashioned way, when no one had any questions about how safe their foods were?

Academic Scientist: The science around agricultural biotechnology is solid. There is a lot of evidence to consider, and it all points to agricultural biotechnology being safely used and having tremendous potential benefits.

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