

Annex 1C

English translation of the focus group discussion outline: Farmers

Article title: Is gene editing natural and does it matter? A qualitative analysis of citizen-consumers' and farmers' views on the use of new genomic techniques in plants

Journal: Agriculture and human values

Corresponding author: Katriina Huttunen, University of Helsinki, katriina.huttunen@helsinki.fi

1) VIEWS ON GENETIC TECHNIQUES IN GENERAL

Let's start with a round:

- a) Could you please state your first name and what you cultivate? How/why did you end up choosing these?
- b) Are you generally interested in plant breeding and/or eager to try new varieties?
- c) What thoughts do genetic techniques as part of plant breeding evoke?
- d) Have you heard about the relatively new method, gene editing or so-called gene scissors? If so, where/from whom have you heard about this? What do you know about it? What thoughts (concerns/hopes) do you have?

INFORMATION: slide 1 + table of new and old methods

- 5. What thoughts do new methods evoke? Hopes? Concerns? (Does the material help in understanding?)
- 6. WHERE THIS FITS: How do representatives of conventional and organic farming feel current breeding meets their needs (also in the future), and is there room for GE in this?

2) REGULATION

- a) Current situation: strict regulation, expensive, all methods under the same legislation – how do you feel about the current regulation?

INFORMATION: Proposal under discussion, material for this, slide 3

- b) What do you think about this?
- c) What consequences could there be from a farmer's perspective?

3) PERSONAL READINESS TO USE

- a) Personal readiness to use: Could you imagine cultivating varieties bred with new genome editing methods yourself? Why/why not?
How do you see market development – pressure to adopt gene-edited varieties?
- b) How significant do you consider issues related to these new genomic techniques and their regulation for yourself (in relation to other factors defining your work, etc.)?
- c) Group interviews with citizens/consumers conveyed a rather positive attitude towards new methods 'in theory', but many simultaneously expressed skepticism about purchasing these products; the origin (whether gene-edited) should definitely be labeled on products; and strong trust in experts. What thoughts do these evoke?