



Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
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October 26, 2021

The Honorable David Scott  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Livestock and  
Foreign Agriculture  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dusty Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Livestock and  
Foreign Agriculture  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Stacey Plaskett  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Baird  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott, Chairman Costa, Chairwoman Plaskett, Ranking Member Thompson, Ranking Member Johnson, and Ranking Member Baird and Members of the Committee:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) is pleased to submit a statement for the record to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture joint hybrid subcommittee hearing, *Agricultural Biotechnology: 21st Century Advancements and Applications*.

### **Introduction**

BIO represents 1,000 members in a biotech ecosystem with a central mission – to advance public policy that supports a wide range of companies and academic research centers that are working to apply biology and technology in the energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and



health sectors to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet. BIO is committed to speaking up for the millions of families around the globe who depend upon our success. We will drive a revolution that aims to cure patients, protect our climate, and nourish humanity.

### **Agricultural Biotechnology: 21st Century Advancements and Applications**

BIO applauds the Committee for examining the role of agricultural biotechnology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

To meet the challenges of a changing climate and sustainably increasing production to feed a growing world, it is crucial to lead with science and U.S. innovation. We must incentivize the adoption of innovative, sustainable technologies and practices; and streamline and expedite regulatory pathways for breakthrough technology solutions.

### **Adoption and Acceptance of Agricultural Biotechnology**

The adoption of biotechnology in agriculture and the development of biobased technologies has already contributed to food security, sustainability, and climate change solutions. The acceptance of biotechnology has enabled large shifts in agronomic practices that have led to significant and widespread environmental benefits.

Ensuring policies and regulations continue to advance innovative breakthroughs will be critical. Increasing the use and acceptance of these technologies can reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout agricultural supply chains and strengthen producers' resiliency to climate change while increasing production and helping tackling hunger by bringing more nutritious offerings to all tables.

BIO understands that consumers want to know information about biotechnology in food and agriculture, and our members want to be the driver of that endeavor. A proactive approach to transparency stands to energize understanding, build trust, and foster an environment where innovators, companies, and consumers together can address our most pressing societal and environmental problems. BIO supports increased openness about products being developed and best practices developers use in advancing beneficial products to the commercial marketplace.

The U.S. has led the way in developing these innovations due to thoughtful, bipartisan public policy. This has created a favorable climate in which to undertake the lengthy and risky job of investing and developing the next biotech breakthroughs; allowed producers to



use new technologies; and ensured a pathway to market for new products. However, America's continued success and leadership are not guaranteed, and we should not take its global leadership for granted.

COVID-19 has also exposed the vulnerabilities and inequalities in how communities are disproportionately impacted, our capacity to respond to crisis, our ability to maintain our supply chains, and to withstand an economic downturn. These challenges will only grow more prevalent and damaging because of climate change.

To ensure America is able to respond to future challenges in cleaner, more efficient ways, maintain its global leadership, and allow its farmers, ranchers, sustainable fuel producers, and manufacturers to have access to cutting edge technologies, the United States must invest in new technologies and have risk-proportionate regulations that spur biological innovations.

The government should also focus on removing barriers and assisting beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in accessing and utilizing these technologies, so all producers can adapt to the challenges ahead. By accelerating and deploying innovation, American agriculture can be resilient, self-sustaining, and strengthen our economy.

To learn more about these technologies, our companies' innovative breakthroughs, and the policies that can allow American agriculture to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, please see BIO's past comments to the Committee and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- BIO statement for the record to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture hearing entitled, *Climate Change and the U.S. Agriculture and Forestry Sectors*, [available here](#).
- BIO comments to USDA's Solicitation of Input from Stakeholders on Agricultural Innovations, [available here](#).
- BIO response to USDA's Request for Comments: Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad as USDA develops a Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Approach, [available here](#).

## **Conclusion**

With science we can return our Nation and the world to health and prosperity. BIO is committed to working with the Committee, Congress, and the Administration to establish supportive policies and regulations to foster the rapid development and deployment of



agricultural biotechnology to help American agriculture meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We look forward to our continued partnership in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Gallo". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Sarah Gallo  
Vice President, Agriculture and Environment  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

