

Dear Ms Jülicher,

thank you for your positive feedback and your willingness to accompany our activities with your expertise.

With the European Green Deal and the Farm-to-Fork strategy, the European Commission sets out the path towards a more sustainable economy. This also poses major challenges for farmers, food producers and the whole supply chain. Adapted crops also play an important role in sustainable agriculture adapted to changing climatic conditions. According to many experts, new, innovative techniques in plant breeding have the potential to minimise crop failures due to climatic reasons and to reduce the use of fertilisers and plant protection products.

The two digital events we are planning in the **series “Genome Editing – Opportunities for Sustainability and Innovation”** focus on different priorities in relation to new plant breeding techniques, with the following key questions: What concrete contributions can breeders and farmers make to achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal? What measures is policy taking to support the work of researchers and practitioners? Does EU legislation on genetic engineering, based on the scientific knowledge of the 1980s, still meet the current challenges of climate change and current knowledge? What are appropriate rules that ensure safe products, but also do not create disproportionate hurdles and encourage innovation?

For organisational reasons, there is a delay:

The series starts with the **theme “Contribution of new breeding technologies to the achieving the climate objectives of the European Green Deal”**. The economic, scientific, but also political dimensions of these challenges will be discussed, especially in the national and European context.

Date: **46. calendar week** (on the **9th OR 12 November 2020**), during the period from **13: 00 to 17: 00, duration: 90 mins**

The final date currently depends on the availability of Ms **Julia Klöckner**, Federal Minister. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture had already indicated a strong interest in participating. In addition, we already have a commitment [REDACTED] of seeds-
UNION BIOTEC GmbH, a medium-sized plant breeder.

Dear Dr Jülicher, Grain Club and the community of numerous other agri-food associations, would be very grateful for your input and subsequent participation in **an expert meeting in the context of the** described meeting on **9 or 12 November 2020**. A detailed and updated **concept of the event** will be sent to you as soon as the date has been fixed.

The second digital event will focus on *“New breeding techniques in Europe and in international trade – regulation, security of supply, competitiveness”* in **January 2021** in the framework of the 13th edition of Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) planned in 2021. The GFFA will take **place from 18 to 22 January 2021 (4th week)** under the headline theme *“Pandemia and climate change: How do we feed the world?”* Here, the results of the first event in November 2020 should be taken up, developed and placed in a global context.

We look forward to receiving your feedback and remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,