



BEAN IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: U.S. Dry Bean Council, Bean Traders, Shippers, Cannery and Processors
FROM: Juan Osorno, President of the Bean Improvement Cooperative
RE: Genetic Modification-GM in Dry Beans and Snap Beans

On behalf of the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC), I would like to issue the following statement concerning the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) status for dry bean and snap bean grown in the U.S. for production year 2025, which once again remains unchanged from the previous year:

Currently, there are no commercially produced or imported GMO-beans in the U.S. This includes all commercial varieties of dry and snap beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) such as the commercial dry bean market classes of Navy, Pinto, Great Northern, Kidney (including Dark Red, Light Red and White Kidney), Cranberry, Black, Pink, Small Reds and miscellaneous classes such as Yellow-eye, Alubia, Jacob's Cattle, Soldier, and Anasazi, among others; and garden beans including snap, blue-lake, wax, pole, and half-runner pod types, all of which can be classified as NOT Genetically-Modified Organisms (Non-GMO) or derivatives of genetically-modified origin.

Beans are a recalcitrant species (unlike corn, tomatoes, or soybeans); thus, have not been amenable to genetic engineering or modification from other genetic sources. With that said, experimental GMO beans have been developed in Brazil and Mexico on market classes not currently produced in the U.S. Brazil is the only country in which a GMO bean variety from the carioca market class (which is not produced in the U.S.) that was commercially released; however, it is our understanding that this variety is no longer being sold commercially. To our knowledge, no Genetically Modified-GM or transgenic beans have been generated commercially in the United States, so currently all commercial dry bean classes grown in the United States are not genetically modified.

The non-GMO status is still supported by the article published in Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) based on a survey of bean breeders and geneticists in the U.S that was updated by the authors, Myers, J., and M. Brick. 2001, 'Status of Genetically Modified (GM) Varieties in Common Bean in the U.S.' (Annual Report of the Bean Improvement Cooperative 44:7-8). This statement is most recently supported by talks presented during a special session at the 2009 BIC meeting in Ft. Collins, CO. In addition, none of our society members and/or presenters announced or disclosed any commercial release of a GMO bean in the U.S. during our last scientific meeting held at Lincoln, NE in November 2025.

Sincerely,

Juan Osorno
BIC President