GLP's Jon Entine: Gene editing will cut time, costs of commercializing new genetically engineered crops

Monsanto, the world's largest producer of GMO seeds, is betting that a new technology called gene editing may calm consumers unease about eating modified foods.

"I see gene editing very differently [than GMOs] because it's being used today broadly by pharmaceutical, agricultural companies, universities and hundreds of startup companies — and I think there is broad support for this science and I think that is going to make a big difference," Dr. Robert Fraley, chief technology officer for Monsanto, tells FOX Business.

Monsanto announced [May 2017] that they are investing heavily in gene editing or CRISPR/Cas9—a genome editing technology developed by Broad institute—that will allow scientists to make changes to a plant's already-existing DNA without adding any foreign DNA (like GMOs allow).

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Jon Entine, executive director of the Genetic Literacy Project and founder of Genetic Experts News Service, says that while gene editing may be an easier sell to consumers than GMOs, it also stands to boost Monsanto's bottom line.

"CRISPR and other gene editing techniques are scientifically easier than conventional breeding. And, genetic engineering saves time and money—as much as \$130 million in 10 years or more, which is the cost and time of getting a GMO approved and commercialized," Entine tells FOX Business.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: Move Over GMOs? Monsanto Experimenting With Gene Editing