Costa Rica revises its biotechnology regulations, dropping restrictions on gene editing and other New Breeding Techniques

Industry experts say a November 11, 2023, update to the Costa Rican biotechnology regulatory framework facilitates utilization of innovative biotechnologies and reduce barriers to common applications of modern biotechnology. FAS/San José expects a genome-edited banana variety resistant to yield-reducing fungal diseases sigatoka and fusarium wilt could be the first genome-edited product commercialized in Costa Rica later in 2024.

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Costa Rica was the world’s 5th largest exporter of bananas in 2023, shipping more than $430 million to the United States... Under the new regulation, Costa Rica would treat a range of products created with innovative biotechnologies as equivalent to conventional products.

[Editor’s note: Read the full report here]

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