**Interview Guide: Gene-Edited Foods, Governance and Trust**

This project is titled “Identifying Gaps in Public Trust and Governance Recommendations For Gene Edited Foods.” We are concerned with understanding emergent attitudes and concerns regarding gene-edited foods, identifying gaps in public trust, and determining the major factors that may induce or impede trust in gene-edited foods and their governance.

Your identity will remain confidential, and any presentation or publication that uses interview data will use pseudonyms. [Your responses will be combined with those of other government agency personnel and then referenced as the observations and opinions of government employees with experience in, or directly working in, this space]. Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose to skip any questions during the interview, and you may end your participation at any time. To facilitate the interview, I would like to record it. Are you ok with recording the interview?

**Background**

1. Can you describe your role in your organization?

[Probe: background, previous job/engagement with biotech and science expertise]

**Position on Gene-Editing Technologies**

1. What do you see as the key benefits of gene editing technology? For whom?

[Probe: food production, environment, economic]

* 1. What kinds of crops and traits could be developed that would provide the greatest benefit [to consumers/farmers/business]?

1. What do you see as the key risks of gene editing technology? For whom?

[Probe: food production, environment, economic, corporate control]

1. Do you see different benefits/risks in terms of the application of gene editing to agriculture and food?

[Probe: plants vs. animals, trees, eradication of pests (mosquitos)]

* 1. [If critical of gene editing in general]. Would you support gene-edited technology if it was developed and used to address your specific concerns?

[Probe: animal welfare, diseases for food crops in developing countries]

1. In what way do you view these risks and benefits as similar to either GMO/traditional plant breeding?

**Control of the Technology**

1. Proponents of gene editing argue that the nature of the technology lends itself to widespread rather than concentrated ownership of the technology. Do you think we will see widespread ownership and control of the technology, in terms of patents and licenses? Why/why not?
2. What effect might ownership of the technology have on what crops and traits using gene-editing technology get developed?

[Probe: public sector scientists and public benefits]

**Public Perceptions, Engagement and Trust**

1. How is your organization engaging with [the public, your customers, policy makers] on the issue of gene editing?

[Probe: If not, why not? What plans to engage?]

1. What public concerns regarding GEF do you expect to emerge? How will you address them?
2. How can public trust in gene-edited crops and foods be built? By whom?

[Probe: food labels, organic alternatives, regulations, education/outreach]

* 1. How important is the issue of who controls the technology to building public trust?

1. What lessons did your organization learn from the public debate over GMOs about how you should engage with [the public, your customers] regarding gene editing?

**For Organic Industry/Advocates**

1. Are there particular concerns that GE presents for organic production?

[Probe: identity preservation, food labels, regulations]

* 1. If yes, how can your concerns be addressed?

**Governance: Regulations, Policy, and Labels**

1. What should a regulatory framework for GEF look like?

[Probe: role of USDA, FDA, EPA]

1. What criteria should government agencies use in determining how to regulate GEF?

[Probe: risk assessment, equivalency to traditional breeding techniques]

1. Are there other considerations beyond risk assessment that should be included in the governance/regulation of GEF, such as social or economic concerns?
2. In general, how should GEF be governed/regulated to facilitate public trust in GEF?

[Probe: labels (mandatory, voluntary), mandatory reviews, education and outreach]

1. Are you familiar with the recent international decisions regarding regulating GEF, where the EU Court ruled that GEF should be regulated and labeled as if they are GMOs, while Japan has decided that GEF do not require special regulations.
   1. How do you think these decisions will affect the regulatory approach in the US?
   2. How do you think these decisions will affect efforts to harmonization the regulation of GE internationally?

**Final**

1. Are there other issues related to gene editing crops and foods, public trust and governance that I didn’t ask about but that you think are important?
2. Are there other people you would suggest I meet with related to the topic?