



Commodities, Livestock, and Trade

Protection of Traditional Agricultural Systems and Foods

Task Force

NCAI requests that the USDA protect traditional agricultural systems against the use and cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) seeds within range that could potentially lead to the contamination of native seeds. To accomplish this goal, NCAI asks that USDA create an FACA advisory group to include tribal representatives, charged with creating zones that will be free of genetically engineered and transgenic plant organisms, proposing the development of statutes and regulations that impose stricter labeling requirement on seeds or products containing GE technology and ingredients, and stricter regulation and oversight over the cultivation and distribution of GE foods. (See attached NCAI resolution

Labeling

Agricultural products produced by American Indian Tribes should be labeled as such to prevent the abuse of marketing of products by non-Indians. For example, non-Native producers of cultivated, paddy grown rice have used American Indian imagery and tribal names to market their commercially-cultivated rice in manner that confuses consumers and diminishes the distinction between cultivated rice and naturally occurring wild rice. These practices diminish the cultural, nutritional, unique and economic value of Native products.

NCAI recommends that USDA **Food and Drug Administration** develop statutes and/or regulations in consultation with Tribal governments, among others, that creates labeling rules regarding American Indian produced goods, in which no one shall label items as Indian grown or raised, or in a way that would lead the consumer to believe they were American Indian grown or raised, unless the producer is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

See attached NCAI Resolutions SAC-06-091 GE Foods, and PHX 08-002 Labeling