

**ETA POSITION PAPER ON THE USE OF  
GENETIC MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF  
ENZYME PRODUCING ORGANISMS AND ENZYME PROTEINS**

1. The Enzyme Technical Association (ETA) supports the use of genetic modification techniques, including recombinant DNA technology, for the improvement of enzyme producing organisms and enzyme proteins. Genetic modification techniques can offer benefits to society as a whole and ETA feels that it is important that the application of these techniques be explored and utilized where safe and appropriate.
2. Genetic modification techniques are important tools for improving the production of enzymes and/or the quality of enzyme products and their use can result in the following advantages:
  - Reduced consumption of raw materials and energy and reduced generation of waste;
  - Use of alternative and renewable raw materials;
  - Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Enzyme products that are higher in purity and specificity;
  - Cost-effective production and sustainable development;
  - Improved performance of detergents and enzymes in industrial processes;
  - Improvement of the nutritional value and aesthetic quality of food products;
  - Improved utilization of nutrients in animal feeds;
  - Availability of enzyme products that for economic, occupational or environmental reasons may otherwise not be available, thus enabling new applications.
3. All enzyme products should be judged on their intrinsic properties, not on the method used to develop the production organism. Enzyme products, whether obtained from genetically modified organisms or wild type organisms are only introduced into the marketplace when their safety (including the safety of the production organism, enzyme protein, production process and final product) has been fully established in accordance with internationally accepted standards and regulatory requirements.
4. ETA endorses open dialogue as a way to promote customer and consumer understanding of the application of modern biotechnology, including genetic modification techniques. ETA is willing to support and actively contribute to this dialogue.
5. ETA promotes an open information policy. Members are encouraged to be proactive and to inform their customers when a production organism or protein has been developed using recombinant DNA technology.
6. In support of the appropriate use of genetic modification techniques, it is ETA's policy that its members will not make unsubstantiated statements regarding this technology.
7. ETA members will continue to make enzyme products available that meet the needs of their customers and will assist their customers in addressing possible consumer concerns.