BEAN IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2018

TO: U.S. Dry Bean Council, Bean Traders, Shippers, Canners and Processors

FROM: P.N. Miklas, President of Bean Improvement Cooperative

RE: Gluten Free Status of Dry Beans and Snap Beans

On behalf of the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC), I would like to issue the following statement concerning gluten-free status for dry bean and snap bean production in the U.S.:

Gluten is a class of seed storage proteins found only in the grasses and mainly in wheat. The grasses (Poaceae) belong to a differently family from common bean (Fabaceae) with no chance of genetic exchange between the species within these families. All plant seeds are made up in part of seed storage proteins, and these vary in composition. The seed storage protein (Phaseolin) found in common bean is substantially different from gluten. No known adverse health effects have been associated with its consumption as cooked dry beans or snap beans.

As such, we can categorically state that dry and snap beans are gluten-free.

Sincerely,

Phillip N. Miklas
President

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2018

TO: U.S. Dry Bean Council, Bean Traders, Shippers, Canners and Processors

FROM: P.N. Miklas, President of Bean Improvement Cooperative

RE: Genetic Modification-GM in Dry Beans and Snap Beans

On behalf of the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC), I would like to issue the following statement concerning GMO status for dry bean and snap bean grown in the U.S. for production year 2018, which once again remains unchanged from the previous year:

Currently, there are no commercially produced or imported GMO-beans in the U.S. This includes all commercial varieties of dry and snap beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) such as the commercial dry bean market classes of Navy, Pinto, Great Northern, Kidney including Dark Red, Light Red and White Kidney, Cranberry, Black, Pink, Small Reds and miscellaneous classes such as Yellow-eye, Alubia, Jacob's Cattle, Soldier, Anasazi; and garden beans including snap, blue-lake, wax, pole, and half-runner pod types, all of which can be classified as NOT Genetically-Modified Organisms (GMO) or derivatives of genetically-modified origin.

Beans are a recalcitrant species (unlike corn, tomatoes or soybeans); thus, have not been amenable to genetic engineering or modification from other genetic sources. With that said experimental GMO beans have been developed in Brazil and Mexico. However, no Genetically Modified-GM or transgenic beans have been generated commercially in the United States, so currently all commercial dry bean classes grown in the United States are not genetically modified.

The non-GMO status is still supported by the article published in Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) based on a survey of bean breeders and geneticists in the U.S that was updated by the authors, Myers, J., and M. Brick. 2001, 'Status of Genetically Modified (GM) Varieties in Common Bean in the U.S.' Report from the W-150 Regional Project Technical Committee February 19, 2001. Annual Report of the Bean Improvement Cooperative 44:7-8. This statement is most recently supported by talks presented during a special session at the 2009 BIC meeting in Ft. Collins, CO.

Sincerely,

Phillip N. Miklas
President