

GMO Statement

May 2023 | Version 2.0



Upfield Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

By 2050, our global food system will need to feed nearly 10 billion people worldwide. This requires a shift to predominantly plant-based diets with lower consumption of animal-derived foods – especially in regions where we currently overconsume meat and dairy.

To meet this challenge, the entire food system requires innovation, secure and resilient supply of ingredients and efficient production. To this end, responsibly sourced, scientifically assessed and authorised GMO ingredients can be a tool to meet the needs of our food system and our people.

Part of Upfield's contribution to the shift towards more plant-based diets is our 100% plant-based target by 2030, which requires active innovation and reformulation of several of our products. In order to replicate the texture of animal-derived foods using cow-free ingredients, we sometimes rely on the use of enzymes or other proteins produced by genetically modified microorganisms to replace animal proteins, just as genetically modified enzymes are used in the production of many foods (for example, the use of chymosin in rennet, as used in some dairy cheeses, or fortification with some vitamins).

Multiple regulatory and scientific bodies (such as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)) have concluded that from a human and environmental perspective, authorised GM crops and food ingredients produced from them are safe.

However, we are aware of stakeholder concerns around the potential ecological and health-related impacts of some applications of certain genetically modified organisms. With this in mind, we have strict sustainable sourcing policies in place to ensure the highest standards for all ingredients and crops used in our products are met. Upfield controls any potential risks of using GMOs in our products by following all regulatory requirements to ensure our products are safe, including the sourcing of GMO and non-GMO ingredients.

Where relevant, we apply additional controls to ensure absence of GMOs when this is indicated or implied on packaging or marketing materials. This may include declarations or questionnaires from suppliers and certification.