

2016

October

Development of Agricultural Biotechnology in Malaysia in Comparison to Global Status

MAHALETCHUMY ARUJANAN

Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC), 4-8-27 Monash University Sunway Campus, Jalan Lagoon Selatan, Bandar Sunway, 46150 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Agricultural biotechnology is rapidly advancing and is providing a number of tools to improve crop production that not only is important to feed the global population but also in healing and fueling the world. The global scientific community is already advancing from conventional breeding techniques and genetic engineering to more precise technologies such as gene editing. While Malaysia has a strong commitment to develop biotechnology and bioeconomy, and had a good start with tissue culture, the country is lagging behind in modern biotechnology.

This paper outlines the global status of agricultural biotechnology, in particular developments in Asian countries. Malaysian biobased activities in the area of agriculture do not employ advanced modern biotechnology, making Malaysia to lag behind in agricultural biotechnology. The issues and challenges that need to be addressed for Malaysia to transform current research activities to the level that is comparable to global status are discussed.

Keywords: *Genetic engineering, gene editing, Malaysia*

SENTIASA MAJU

1919