

FuturaGene secures world-first regulatory approval for gene-edited eucalyptus

13 February 2026 | News

Brazil's National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) classifies FuturaGene's gene-edited eucalyptus as a conventional organism.



Brazil's National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) classifies FuturaGene's gene-edited eucalyptus as a conventional organism.

FuturaGene, the biotechnology subsidiary of the world's largest pulp supplier, Suzano, has received formal regulatory approval from Brazil's National Biosafety Technical Commission (CTNBio) for its new variety of gene-edited eucalyptus. CTNBio has confirmed the variety meets the criteria for exemption under Normative Resolution No. 16 (RN 16).

This development was produced using CRISPR-Cas9, a New Breeding Technique (NBT), which allows for precise, targeted edits within the eucalyptus genome. Because the process introduces no genetic material from other species, the resulting modification is functionally comparable to genetic variations that may occur naturally or through conventional breeding methods.

The specific edit in the new variety is designed to improve wood quality. By optimizing the wood's lignin composition, FuturaGene's new development supports more sustainable industrial processing, by enabling the reduction of chemical inputs and energy consumption during pulping.

Following this regulatory approval, which also sets out an applicable biosafety and governance framework, FuturaGene will proceed with controlled field trials across different growing conditions in Brazil. Trials will be conducted in line with the highest safety and governance standards, in strict compliance with all regulatory requirements.

FuturaGene is a pioneer in tree biotechnology in Brazil and globally, having now obtained 11 approvals from CTNBio for genetically modified (GM) eucalyptus varieties, with traits including yield enhancement, herbicide tolerance, and insect resistance, and this first approval for gene-edited eucalyptus. All the products aim to support sustainably meeting growing global demand for bio-based products, at the same time as adapting commercial tree farming to the impacts of climate change and resource scarcity.

This new regulatory milestone reinforces FuturaGene's track record of responsible innovation, aligned with Brazil's biosafety policy framework. Gene editing now complements the company's existing portfolio of approved genetically modified eucalyptus varieties, providing a diverse technological toolkit with methodologies that can suit specific challenges.