



# *Read out of the Virtual Breakout Group Session in Animal Biotechnology (Latin America)*

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# Driving Questions

- 1. **What are the main either challenges or limitations you find as relevant for the animal biotech industry in your country and how to overcome such limitations?**

## **Engagement and Communication**

- What steps can be taken to increase positive interaction among developers, regulators, and farmers?
  - What are the consumers and civil society concerns?
  - How can we effectively engage the public in the policy setting process?
  - How can regulatory authorities explain the safety (and science) of GM and GEd foods without bias?
  - What steps can be taken to promote communication and public acceptance of animal biotechnology?
  - Whose responsibility is it to take such actions?
    - What role should government officials play?
- **Training**
    - **How can we** help scientists and regulators to be better narrative and to interact positively with civil society on such issues
  - What training needs for scientists, regulators and developers are currently unmet?
- **Marketing and Trade**
    - What can we do to address issues regarding international trade in products of animal biotechnology?
- **Policy (IP)**

## 2. **Next steps**

# Session Overview

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- November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Participants:
  - 24 people from 8 countries
  - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Uruguay.



# *Driving Question*

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What are the main challenges or constraints you consider relevant to the animal biotechnology industry in your country and how to overcome them?

- **Financial limitations** from public sector for animal biotech developments
- **Communication**
- **Education and Training**
- **Regulation**

# Engagement and communication

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- **The several names of the new biotechnologies** (gene editing, new breeding techniques, etc.) are creating confusion to the public.
- **It is necessary to recognize** that, for animal biotech, communication must focus on
  - Safety for consumers
  - Animal welfare
- Communication and engagements must be **science-based**.
  - Technical data must be given to the public in a very clear and understandable manner –using COVID experience as example-
- To improve **communication** of science at all stakeholder levels (scientists, regulators, developers).
- The communication strategies must take into account:
  - **Partnerships** with academia and private sector
  - Focus the conversation on biotech benefits and **economic impacts** of technology adoption
- Communication strategies must recognize the **specificities** of each country and the most recent advances (social networks, memes, etc.).

# Training

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- How can we help scientists and regulators become better rapporteurs and interact positively with civil society on these issues?
- What training needs for scientists, regulators, and developers are currently unmet?

- **Education** (starting at school level) for public literacy.
- Strong and frequent **capacity building** activities oriented mainly to regulators and legislators in both technical and communicational topics.

# *Marketing & Trade*

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What can we do to address issues related to international trade in animal biotechnology products?

- To have legal and regulatory clarity
- Regulatory cooperation is a possibility to avoid trade barriers

# *Public Policies*

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How do Intellectual Property policies affect the development of animal biotechnology in your country?

- Although important, right now it is not a relevant issue for the majority of LATAM countries.



# *Preparing for Innovation*

What is your country doing to encourage innovation and support developers in the application process?

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- Concern for lack of regulatory framework to face new to market products (salmon, mosquitoes)
- Establish scientific direct communication to final consumers to assess public perception before product regulatory assessment and launch
- Capacity building efforts for decision makers
- Taking advantage of COVID virtual environments to communicate simple scientific messaging through virtual platforms

# Next steps

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Identify potential follow-up activities that would be beneficial within your region

- **Capacity building** activities targeting **different groups of interest**.
  - For example:
    - Researchers on regulation and communication
    - Journalists in basic biotechnology and applications
    - Teachers on biotechnology
- **Capacity building for regulators** focusing on actual case studies.
  - To continue with these kind of events
- Workshops for training in **public communication**
- **Regulatory workshops**

*Thank you*

*Muchas gracias !*