Virtual Breakout Group Session in Animal Biotechnology
(Government Regulatory/ Policy Officials)

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United States

Challenges for animal biotech

- Limited precedent / regulator experience with animal biotech

- Keeping pace with advancements in technology (regulatory approaches and definitions lagging behind science)

  - ✓ New technologies not fitting into old definitions

  - ✓ Complex to clarify and implement regulatory approaches in a timely manner

  - ✓ Shifting from process triggers to product-based approaches

- Public lack of trust in developers performing due diligence

- Ensuring safety and addressing public perception and community expectations without slowing down innovation

- How to impose oversight without being overly burdensome

Regulatory cooperation and compatibility

- Shared assessments (e.g. Canada – FSANZ Pilot project for shared assessments)

- Exchange of information, parallel assessments (with developer consent)

- Publication of risk assessments (e.g. online, FAO GM foods platform)

- Collaborative work at multilateral fora (e.g. OECD, Codex)

- Intra-government collaboration and cooperation

Challenges:

- Need to build trust between countries

- Differing level or scope of oversight, legislative requirements

- Country specific contexts, especially for environmental release

- Working within different time constraints and deadlines for different countries

Potential solutions and ways forward

- Early and frequent engagement with developers

- Establish formal processes for shared/joint/parallel risk assessments

- Build trust with both the public and developers

- Transparent, predictable regulatory requirements (clear definitions and regulations, data requirements)

- Modernize legislation so that it can be amended easily/quickly

- Modernize legislation to allow more cooperation and collaboration

- Share experiences, develop resources and trainings

- Develop/use case studies to test out ideas and systems

- More informal conversations and workshops like these