

Government Regulatory/Policy Officials (Africa and the Middle East)

Countries represented

- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Kenya
- Saudi Arabia
- Argentina

Question 1

Challenges

- Regulatory uncertainty
- Policy contradictions and overlaps
- Outcome uncertainty - animal biotech is still at infancy globally

Recommendations

- Development of guidelines/ regulations
- Adoption of multi- Agency approach in regulation
- Political goodwill

Question 2

- **Regulatory Cooperation** –

Initiatives at different stages in various Economic Blocks (ECOWAS, COMESA, East African Community)

- Intercountry cooperation from common interests - same project, trait, product
- South Africa has deliberate initiative to share experiences with

- **Harmonization and Compatibility** –

- could start with standardization of SOPs, application forms etc., so that questions asked are similar

Question 3 and 4

Scope regulation for Genome Editing (Q.3)

- Kenya- Has a draft guidelines on Genome editing with proposed exemptions on some applications
- Nigeria- Draft guidelines underway
- South Africa- Discussions still underway
- Knowledge gaps – lack of consortia at national levels

Preparing for Innovation (Q.4)

- Nigerian, Kenyan and South African governments support local innovation and technology
- Kenya has NACOSTI, South Africa has Biosafety SA and Biotechnology Dev. Agency in Nigeria
- Other organizations, like USDA, can take advantage to support capacity building
- Regulations can be made more fit for purpose if Regulators and Innovators work together and develop regulation fit for public, private, public-private sectors

Question 5 - Next steps

- Countries with guidelines to complete them and share with other countries
 - In so doing encourage harmonization
- Create awareness on Genome Editing targeting legislators and other policymakers
- Take advantage of regional organizations to encourage countries to work together
- Do an inventory of animal researchers, what they're doing, what they're using and establish networks
- Bring all animal research stakeholders on board while developing/ finalizing regulations
- Improve communication from regulators to the public