



*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

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



Driving Question

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

- **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

- 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

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

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?

- 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

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 !