

Session VII

Virtual Breakout Session

Northern America and Europe

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Participants

18 United States	9 Private Sector
3 Canada	12 Government
5 Europe	5 Academia
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26 Total	

Discussion moderated by:
Mark Walton, AquaBounty

1. What are the main challenges or limitations you find relevant to the animal biotech sector in your country, and how to overcome such limitations?

- Public Acceptance
 - Lack of understanding by the general public
 - Communication is a challenge for many scientists
 - Insufficient funding for public education programs
 - There may need to be a good example of public acceptance of an animal biotech product before more companies will prove willing to get involved
- Regulatory Framework
 - Very expensive to get through regulatory process

2. What steps can be taken to increase positive interaction among developers, regulators, farmers, consumers and other stakeholders?

- Finding common ground
 - Meetings
- Interactive dialogue
 - Create venues to promote science (re: GMOs in university dining halls)
 - Demystify genetic modification methods and rationale for using GE
 - Engage with organizations and societies
- Producers are interested, but have concerns about marketing
- Regulatory oversight influences public acceptance
 - Disagreement on the benefits
- Issue of regulatory costs and promotion of small/medium companies

3. How can we help scientists and regulators to be better narrative communicators and to interact effectively with civil society on such issues?

- Public engagement by scientists
- Have active dialogue, not just teach (*Bt* corn example)
- “Safe by Design” approach (Netherlands)
- Some scientists are already being trained to interact with non-technical audience
- Lack of time is a problem
 - Support public engagement as part of the funding process

4. What can we do to address marketing and trade issues?

- Labels
 - How much information should be on labels?
 - Should a label matter if you cannot tell the difference?
 - No way to easily trace a product
 - Public misled by some labels (e.g., non-GMO and cholesterol-free salt)
- International trade
 - How to overcome regulatory issues so farmers can export
 - Experience of tracing offspring of clones in Europe

5. What potential follow-up activities would be beneficial?

- More international involvement with other countries
- Workshops should continue
- Data sharing
- Topics for further discussion and action:
 - What else can be done for public education?
 - What are some specific recommendations for labelling GM products?
 - How do we incentivize scientists to engage with the public? Does this help?
 - How do we streamline the regulatory process for small companies and university researchers?