



SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION FOR INNOVATIONS WORKSHOP

CONCEPT NOTE

When: 23rd to 25th of August 2023

Where: Kenya, Nairobi

Background:

The world faces the interlinked challenges of unsustainable food systems, threats to biodiversity and the climate crisis. Today, more than 800 million people worldwide are chronically hungry, and 2 billion are micronutrient deficient^[1] while global population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050. The rates of current biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change are unprecedented⁴. For all governments around the globe, protecting our food systems, mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of nature must be approached as complementary and very close interdependent objectives. The combination of innovative science and existing sustainable practices can help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs- that aim to make gains across all these global challenges.

Research and scientific innovations are key tools for finding practical results when prioritized through policy decisions. For example, a national science-based policy approach to bio-developments such as drought tolerant crops or synthetic biology applications can foster research and innovations that can help accelerate progress towards the SDG's. To make sure these innovations are fostered and supported, there is a need to actively engage on the policy issues that often have become major hurdles (and often the rate-limiting step) to innovative product adoption.

Description:

AfS will facilitate a “workshop” for a group of countries that strongly believe in the added value of innovation to share knowledge and experiences that encourage the global south to create a supportive environment for scientific research. The workshop will take Argentina's approach to gene editing as a case study and will discuss how governments can take decisions to foster local scientists to develop new ideas for addressing food security as well as the biodiversity and climate crisis. The group will convene in Nairobi, Kenya from the 23rd to 26th of August 2023.

Workshop Objectives:

- ▶ Share knowledge on a regulatory approach to Gene Editing that fosters local innovation;
- ▶ Promote a statement on the need to collaborate and facilitate joint efforts for global south countries to benefit from existing innovations;
- ▶ Discuss collaborations to create spaces to share knowledge; skills and experiences; launch initiatives; enable policy dialogues and carry out science diplomacy events between participating countries.

Learning Objectives:

- ▶ Understand how Argentina's science-based approach to gene editing differentiates between genetic engineering and gene editing.
- ▶ Understand the policy options and political dynamics for oversight of gene edited products in Latin America and Africa.
- ▶ Illustrate, through case studies, that appropriate regulatory approaches exist, which ensure the safe and sustainable adoption of new technologies and enable national and local rural economies with limited resources to benefit from the adoption and trade of products of gene editing.
- ▶ Understand how south-south collaboration initiatives can contribute to building capacity and foster local development of technology to address food security and climate change in the participating countries.

Profile of Participants

- ▶ 30-35 technical and policy officials from African, Latin American and Asian countries who have a strong and active policy or operational role in developing or implementing regulations related to emerging innovative agricultural technologies. The workshop will also consider nominating representatives from academia or relevant agencies that are active in this area.

Course Mechanics:

- ▶ 3-day in-person course to be Zambia.

DRAFT TENTATIVE AGENDA

DAY ONE	
Morning Sessions	<p>How global south collaborations can foster innovations for SDG's</p> <p>An introduction to the importance of collaboration among global south countries and how innovative technologies can be facilitated through effective regional and international alliances.</p>
	<p>Genome Editing Argentina:</p> <p>Introduction to the Argentina biosafety regulation and guidelines for gene editing. A review on how key institutions within the policy landscape in Latam and for the region's current discussions for a differentiated approach to the technology.</p>
Afternoon Sessions	<p>Argentina Case Study: Hands on Exercise for product assessment within a science-based Genome Editing Regulatory Approach</p> <p>A hands on exercise to determine the regulatory approach to a product developed through gene editing according to a science-based criteria.</p>
	<p>Lessons Learned from Around the World on Gene Editing</p> <p>Africa, Latam and Asia share experiences on how a science-based approach to gene editing has facilitated local research and innovations</p>
	<p>Closing and key take aways.</p>

DAY TWO	
Morning Sessions	<p>Developing a common approach to promoting innovation in the Global South</p> <p>An overview of key elements for effective south-south collaboration and objectives of a pro-innovation group of countries.</p>
	<p>Pro Innovation Policies of Participating Governments - Shared views and Gaps</p> <p>Participating countries present current policy decisions that facilitate local innovation in biotechnology, discuss its implementation to identify gaps and opportunities.</p>
Afternoon Session	<p>Case Study of a Global South Cooperation Initiative. A Joint position on Research and Innovation for Local Solutions:</p> <p>A look at how participating countries can promote innovation through a joint position on innovation.</p>

DAY THREE

Morning Sessions

Developing a common approach to promoting innovation in the Global South: Country Group Objectives and Next Steps.

The participating countries believe in the relevance and the added value of the innovative new technologies such as genome editing and their potential. The session will look at a framework to map out opportunities for engagement and sharing.

Break out session and group discussion on a shared agenda with possible next steps for the group to foster and support locally developed innovations in specific areas such as agricultural development, biodiversity conservation, health and climate change.

OUR WORK TARGETS FIVE
IMPORTANT SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

