



Paraguay

1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

Although Paraguay does not yet have a national bioeconomy strategy, the government has provided political support in the area of biotechnology. Within the strategy “**Política y Programa Nacional**

de Biotecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal del Paraguay” (2011) the government set the cornerstone for developing the agricultural and forest biotechnology sector in Paraguay.

2 Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes

No

X

3 Who is the author of the strategies?

The strategy on agricultural and forest biotechnology has been approved by the President of the Republic of Paraguay. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock guided the strategy development process. The strategy document was prepared by the Multisectoral Technical Group on Biotechnology and Biosafety (GTMSBB) in collaboration with

the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The strategy drew on a draft developed in 2005 in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and was discussed with various stakeholders from academia, business and civil society.

4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The Paraguayan strategy on agricultural and forest biotechnology mainly seeks to capitalize on the country's rich biodiversity by boosting agricultural production and exports. Biotechnology should provide solutions to better cope with international challenges, such as climate change, the loss of

biodiversity and the growing world population. Specifically, biotechnology should contribute to enhancing the country's competitiveness, while fostering rural development, combat poverty and ensuring food security.

5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

In order to develop Paraguay's agricultural and forest biotechnology sector, the strategy comprises a set of political guidelines and an implementation plan. The plan provides a timetable and defines clear responsibilities for implementation. The strategy addresses two priority areas. The first key area of the strategy promotes knowledge and technology transfer through capacity building, international collaboration, and increased public and private investment in R&D. Also, strategic alliances

between universities, centers of excellence and businesses are considered important. The second key area of the strategy focuses on promoting the effective use of technologies, both at national and international level, by providing a general information system on biotechnology and its applications, encouraging the creation of new businesses and placing biotechnology-related topics at the center of regional and international negotiations.

REFERENCES

Republic of Paraguay. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. (2011). Política y Programa Nacional de Biotecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal del Paraguay. Retrieved from: <http://www.mag.gov.py/decretos/decreto6733.pdf>