

Evaluation of the regulatory and institutional framework for genetic editing in agriculture using CRISPR-based technologies in Latin America and the Caribbean

Terms of Reference (TdR) for members of the Ad Hoc Working Group (GTA) to support the implementation of Technical Cooperation

1. **Background.** The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Center for Genetic Engineering and Society at North Carolina State University (NCSU) are working together to examine the policies and regulatory framework for new genetic editing technologies applied to the agricultural sector in Latin America. To support the development of the project, the IDB and NCSU, in collaboration with the participating countries, will form an Ad-Hoc Working Group (GTA) to accompany the implementation of the project.
2. **Expected Project Results.** By June 2022, the project is expected, among other topics:
 - Complete a focused review of current agricultural biotechnology policies and trends, next-generation biotechnology methods with agricultural applications, and the licensing structures around them.
 - Critically examine the challenges, opportunities, and potential consequences of public policy modernization pathways explicitly addressing next-generation genetic editing processes and resulting end products in the region.
 - Provide the region with up-to-date information on key regional achievements and capacity deficits in next-generation biotechnology research and development and recommend opportunities for an investment strategy for the region.
 - Develop a guide that helps decision makers in Latin America and Carib and evaluate the best strategies for updating, or initial development, policies and regulatory frameworks for genetic editing processes and the resulting end products.
 - Conduct one or more regional workshops in a pre-existing way, if possible, to disseminate the results of the study.
3. **Composition of the GTA.** The GTA shall consist of 6 members:
 - Five (5) members will be from the countries that have agreed to participate in the project, representing at least one country from each subregion: Southern Cone, Andean Community, Central America and the Caribbean region.
 - Members may designate an alternate to represent them at meetings.
 - One (1) IDB representative.
 - In addition to the representatives listed in items "a" and "b", the GTA may invite any other entity to participate in meetings as an observer.
4. **Scope of work.** The GTA will function as a project advisory mechanism to guide technical implementation. GTA members will not be directly responsible for the management of project activities, but will provide support and guidance to implementers (IDB and NCSU).

Individual members of the GTA shall:

- Understand the objective, methodologies, strategy and expected results of the project.
- Review the progress of the project with respect to the milestones established by the project managers.
- Help the project with the risks and problems that arise during the execution of the project.
- Serve as contact points for the members of the project team for the identification of stakeholders and the presentation of them.
- Provide technical input for project execution (e.g. advising on the selection of case studies).
- Suggest the mechanisms/means of communication/distribution of products.
- The GTA will have the opportunity to review/provide feedback on individual products prior to publication.
- Review the communication strategy (website and social networks)
- Access all intermediate and final results of the study.

5. Quórum for Decision Making

- At least 4 members of the GTA, or their designated alternates, must be present in order for a quorum to be achieved

6. The Technical Secretary. The Technical Secretary of the GTA will be administered by the NCSU (agenda, aids medying and follow-up).

7. Meetings of the Consultative Working Group. The full GTA will meet every six weeks, as needed throughout the duration of the project, or once every three months. The Technical Secretariat (NCSU) of the committee shall notify the members of the GTA in writing at least two weeks in advance, indicating the matters to be dealt with, the place, duration and time of the meeting. Depending on Covid19 restrictions, GTA members will participate in in-person meetings. We believe that the 2021 meetings will all be virtual via videoconference provided by the project. In the case of face-to-face meetings, the IDB will cover the travel expenses of the GTA (tickets, hotels and travel).

STG members will not receive any financial compensation for participating in the GTA.