



AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH (CAS)

REGIONAL POSITION ON BIOTECHNOLOGIES LINKED TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

(in the framework of the negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

CAS / Council. Declaration I

March 10, 2022

Original: Spanish

The Ministers of Agriculture of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, members of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS).

Considering,

1. That the CAS countries, due to their relevance as important world producers and exporters, face the challenge of continuing to contribute decisively to world food production;
2. That it is necessary to achieve a sustainable and competitive development of agriculture, safely incorporating scientific and technological advances;
3. That the CAS countries have more than 20 years of experience in the evaluation and risk analysis of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and with regulatory frameworks that ensure the safe use of new technologies, based on solid scientific principles, which guarantee the biosafety of their products;
4. That our countries have also encouraged the adoption of new genetic improvement technologies, collectively called New Breeding Techniques (NBT) that include gene editing, and do not necessarily result in genetically modified products, and that they are presented as new tools to increase agri-food production allowing greater efficiency in the use of resources, incorporating greater added value, improving the quality of products; helping to achieve the necessary sustainable development, both in the environmental, economic and social spheres;
5. The importance that, in the different multilateral agreements and their respective areas of international negotiation and cooperation, such as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its protocols, the Parties make decisions respecting the scope of their powers and in coordinated manner between the different actions defined and considering that the contribution of these technologies is in accordance with actions defined in these areas.

We declare that:

to. Within the framework of the international negotiations that are taking place, especially in the areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol, it is necessary to focus on a science-based approach for the treatment of these technologies (specified in sections 3 and 4 of the recitals of this Declaration), in order to avoid regulations that may unjustifiably or arbitrarily affect international trade in agri-food products and cause damage to producing and exporting countries, especially developing countries, like those of our region.

b. It is necessary to maintain the treatment of biotechnology issues in their specific areas and within the scope of the CBD and its protocols.

c. It is necessary to maintain a clear differentiation of the regulations and the regulatory approach of products derived from NBT with respect to GMOs and their derivatives.

d. We note with concern the biased concepts presented in the working documents and specifically the language used in the documents: "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" and CBD "Synthetic Biology", which imply broadening the language of biotechnology technology beyond what is internationally agreed upon in instances such as Codex and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and a negative preconception of the use of modern biotechnology, without taking into consideration the opportunities to improve the biosafe use that these technologies represent.

e. We urge international organizations to provide technical and financial cooperation for the development of agrobiotechnologies in a coordinated manner, in accordance with the specific demands of the countries of the region.

f. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, we will work to advance effective implementation measures, as well as promote adequate financing mechanisms, investments in new technologies and innovations aimed at increasing productivity in a sustainable way to obtain safe and quality food, favoring the transfer of technology. and capacity building.

g. We make available to the countries the experience developed by the CAS countries in aspects of policies and regulations of the new agricultural technologies, with the aim of sharing the lessons learned and supporting the countries that require it.

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Por Argentina

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