



# Uruguay

## 1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

Although Uruguay does not have a dedicated bioeconomy strategy, the government supports bioeconomy development in mainly two policy areas, i.e. smart agriculture development and biotechnology. Over the past years, Uruguay has increasingly intensifying its commitment to develop high-tech farming techniques, which is also reflected in the government's strategy paper "**Uruguay Agro Inteligente 2010–2015**" (2010).

In 2011, the government published the biotechnology strategy "**Plan Sectorial Biotecnología 2011–2020**". The strategy is linked to the industrial development strategy (2008), which identifies biotechnology as one of 14 priority sectors that should contribute to Uruguay's economic growth.

## 2 Is the term "bioeconomy" or "biobased economy" used in the strategy documents?

Yes No



In 2014, the term "bioeconomy" was introduced in the political discourse at the "BIO UY Forum", which was hosted by several ministries, public and private stakeholders. The Forum discussed the potential of

biotechnology to contribute to sustainable development and competitiveness under the motto "From Biotechnology to Bioeconomy".

### 3 Who is the author of the strategies?

The strategy paper “Uruguay Agro Inteligente” was initiated by the Minister of Agriculture in 2010. Several public institutions, i.e. the National Meat Institute (INAC), the National Milk Institute (INALE), the National Institute of Colonization (INC), the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA), the National Seed Institute (INASE), the National Viticulture Institute (INAVI), the Agriculture Planning Institute (IPA) and the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat, are responsible for implementing the strategy.

The sector plan on biotechnology (2011) was published by the “Gabinete Productivo”, an interministerial committee, which is composed of the ministries of Industry, Energy and Mining;

Agriculture and Fishing; Labour and Social Affairs, Economy and Finance; Tourism and Sport; Foreign Affairs; Transport and Public Works; and of the Department of Planning and Controlling. As a result of the industrial development strategy (2008), 14 sectorial councils<sup>10</sup> were set up in order to coordinate Uruguay’s industrial policies. In this context, a sectorial council on biotechnology was established to improve the business climate for biotech companies.

<sup>10</sup> The 14 councils are representing the following industry sectors: automobile, apparel, dairy, design, pharmacy, biotechnology/nanotechnology, metallurgy, chemistry, wood, meat, footwear/leather goods, naval, electronics and construction.

### 4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The key goal of the agricultural strategy “Uruguay Agro Inteligente” is designed to strengthen the country’s economic competitiveness, to foster social inclusion and to protect the country’s environment.

The Uruguayan government has recognized the biotechnology sector as a driver for economic growth. Therefore, the overall goal of the sector plan from 2011 is to strengthen Uruguay’s position in the international biotech market.

### 5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The “Uruguay Agro Inteligente” strategy is generally research-oriented in order to foster smart agriculture development. The strategy points out 19 political guidelines, five of which are considered to be particularly important. Firstly, the government emphasizes the need for expanded investment in niche markets. Secondly, the sustainable use of natural resources should be strengthened, e.g. through the development of satellite and drone systems that enable the monitoring of natural resource stocks. Thirdly, increased investment

should also be promoted in adapting to climate change. Fourthly, the government seeks to foster the rural development in order to protect family farming. Lastly, the strategy emphasizes the need for policy coherence. Stronger research collaboration between public institutions should serve as a basis for developing future policies.

The sector plan on biotechnology does not focus on specific biotechnology applications. In fact, the strategy puts emphasis on strengthening the

whole sector by focusing on three key areas. Firstly, promoting regulatory measures and framework policies for biotechnology development should remove regulatory barriers that inhibit demand for biotechnology products. Secondly, the government seeks to foster capacity building through, e.g. training experts and raising awareness of the

need for biotechnological innovations. Thirdly, the strategy paper emphasizes business innovation by, e.g. setting incentives for seed and venture capital investments, strengthening collaboration between research and industry, as well as stimulating the growth of new biotechnological businesses.

---

## REFERENCES

Da Silva, C. (2014, September). Uruguay: towards the formulation of government policies focused on bioeconomy concept. Paper presented at the BIO UY Forum. Retrieved from: <https://www.bio.org/sites/default/files/Sept%2010%20-%20Opening%20Plenary%20-%20Carolina%20da%20Silva.pdf>

Eastern Republic of Uruguay. Gabinete Productivo. (2014). BIO UY 2014: De la biotecnología a la bioeconomía. Retrieved from: <https://gp.gub.uy/es/node/864>

Eastern Republic of Uruguay. Gabinete Productivo. (2011). Plan Sectorial Biotecnología. Retrieved from: <https://gp.gub.uy/es/node/640>

Eastern Republic of Uruguay. Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing. (2015). Lineamientos políticos y metas de la institucionalidad agropecuaria. Retrieved from: <http://www.mgap.gub.uy/portal/page.aspx?2,mgap-institucional,mgap-lineamientos-politicos-de-la-institucionalidad-agropecuaria,0,es,0,MNU;;MNU>

Eastern Republic of Uruguay. Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing. (2014). Uruguay Agro Inteligente. Retrieved from: <http://www.uruguayagrointeligente.uy>