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**Overview of the Biosafety Regulatory Frameworks in LAC countries**  
**Abstract**

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Since the beginning of the 20th century the wealth of Biodiversity in Latin American and Caribbean-LAC Region is universally recognized and constitutes a great strategic value for reducing the deficit in the Region agriculture production. Sustainable use of these resources requires an institutional capacity that will enable the countries to conserve, manage and use these resources appropriately.

The concept of sustainable agriculture development is based on the conviction that it is possible to increase the agricultural production without unnecessarily depleting the world scarce natural resources. It yields per hectare cannot be increased significantly over current levels, then more wilderness areas, which are only marginally suitable for agriculture but are rich in Biodiversity, will be utilized for food production.

The characteristics of modern biotechnology provide both opportunities and challenges, if LAC countries are able to build capacity in their national research systems; biotechnology has the potential to support national efforts towards food security, increase export potential and sustainable development in the region.

The countries of the region require appropriate infrastructures that permit them to acquire, absorb, develop, and efficiently manage biotechnologies. The creation of enabling conditions must be addressed in order to obtain the potential benefits of these new technologies and to minimize and manage any possible adverse effects on the environment, on the human health or on the agricultural productive systems.

The first step for a government in creating a suitable environment to obtain the potential of biotechnology, to improve agriculture Productivity and to mitigate concerns about potential adverse effects is to provide a regulatory framework that ensures safe use of biotechnology products in an opportune and effective manner.

This presentation is intended to outline the wealth of biodiversity and also to present an overview of current biosafety regulations in LAC region.