

Virtual Seminar

“Innovation networks and local value addition in South American bioeconomies: public-private alliances for a sustainable insertion into the global economy”

November 23rd, 10:00-12:00 (Buenos Aires/Montevideo/Brasilia) / 14:00-16:00
(Berlin)

Format: Zoom

Registration: https://www.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8hZcYLVQTq-gFCidDXiFeg

Organisation: Dr Melisa Deciancio, Dr Karen Siegel (both University of Münster) and Dr Jorge Sellare (University of Bonn)

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The creation of new technologies that make efficient use of sustainably produced biomass is one of the cornerstones of the Bioeconomy. These include 1st and 2nd generation biofuels and bioplastics, microbial-based inputs for agricultural production, plant-based substitutes for meat and dairy products, biosimilars, and biopharmaceuticals. South American countries have a strong potential to pursue this kind of technological change, given the availability of biomass, natural resources, and research institutes. Doing so would help diversify national economies, create new employment opportunities, and reduce the reliance on fossil resources. However, several countries in the region have traditionally focused on commercializing raw biomass, instead of adding-value locally and pursuing more technology-intensive uses for their biomass.

A higher protagonism of South America in the global high-tech bioeconomy could potentially be achieved by fostering regional and national innovation networks. The concept of innovation networks refers to the transfer of intangible and immaterial assets between actors who form alliances – often between private and public actors – aiming to develop innovations in products, processes, organizations and commercialization. Despite the existence of some innovation networks in the region, many policy discussions have highlighted the difficulties of harnessing the potential of these innovations. Hence there is a clear need to understand better the challenges, opportunities and capabilities that South American bioeconomies face in developing stakeholder alliances to bring innovations to the market, capture their value and foster a more sustainable insertion into the global economy.

In this virtual seminar, we will explore the following questions:

- What are the successful experiences of public-private partnerships for the development of bioeconomy innovations that currently exist in South America?
- What are the main challenges that start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs face to successfully develop and commercialize new technologies?
- What kind of public policies can provide the necessary incentives to encourage investments in high-risk bio-based innovations?
- Can regional innovation networks offer opportunities for companies to better integrate international markets?

Structure of the virtual seminar

The seminar will be structured as a panel with four speakers, one bringing a regional perspective and one speaker discussing experiences from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay respectively. Each intervention will last around 15 minutes, and afterwards, we will have a Q&A.

The webinar will be in Spanish with live translations to English and Portuguese

Speakers

- **Anabel Marin**, Institute of Development studies, UK, CONICET Argentina
- **Victoria Santos**, Instituto SENAI de Inovação em Biosintéticos y Fibras, Brazil
- **Isabel Bortagaray**, Instituto de Desarrollo Sostenible, Innovación e Inclusión Social, Universidad de la República, Uruguay.
- **Rafael Anta**, Technology and Innovation Competitiveness, IADB

Chair: Melisa Deciancio, SABio Project, University of Münster, CONICET Argentina

The virtual seminar is organised by the SABio research project. The interdisciplinary SABio project (www.sabio-project.org) is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and consists of two research groups. Dr Jorge Sellare leads the research group in agricultural economics at the University of Bonn and Dr Karen Siegel is head of the research group in political science at the University of Münster. The Principal Investigators are Prof. Jan Börner (University of Bonn) and Prof. Thomas Dietz (University of Münster).