

Global Conference on Sustainability in Agriculture & Food Systems

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Abstract of the intervention:

Economic Effects of Genome Editing - The Case of SMEs in Argentina

Argentina was the first country to enact ad hoc regulations for gene editing applied in agriculture, which was quickly replicated by other countries in the American Continent's Southern Cone.

This pioneering regulatory step led to interesting effects on local economic innovation activity. In particular, some local biotech SMEs have been created that focus solely on developing gene-edited agrifood products (i.e., they wouldn't exist otherwise). Besides, other preexisting biotech or breeding-related SMEs have made significant investments in the development of new products using this technology. Finally, foreign SMEs have sought for joint ventures with local counterparts to combine capabilities and territorial reach.

This presentation will review some leading study cases, addressing the effect of local and foreign regulations, as well as other conditions, in the rise, evolution and success of relevant SMEs in Argentina. Finally, some considerations regarding the potential relevance of these precedents for the European economic and regulatory environment will be offered.