



Sri Lanka

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Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

Inspired by innovation-driven biotechnology policies in South and South-East Asia, the Sri Lankan Cabinet of Ministers enacted the “**National Biotechnology Policy**” in 2010. This policy complements the second revision of the National Science

and Technology Policy from 2009, and represents the first policy statement targeting innovation in biotechnology and encouraging its cross-sectoral application.

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Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes No

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The term “bioeconomy” seems not be used in policy discussions. However, promoting bioindustries and

added value from sustainable biological resources is central to the biotechnology policy framework.

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Who is the author of the strategies?

The strategy was developed jointly by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and its National Committee on Biotechnology together with the National

Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) by means of an extensive consultation process with experts and the public.

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What are the key goals of the strategies?

The strategy seeks to “enhance the quality of life of all Sri Lankans in terms of health, food security, a clean environment and socio-economic development through ethical, effective and safe use of biotechnology”¹⁴. Although agricultural biotechnology plays a central role, the strategy addresses all

types of biotechnologies that increase the added value from biological resources.

¹⁴ Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Ministry of Science and Technology, 2009, p.7.

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What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The National Policy comprises a wide range of political support measures, such as awareness creation, education, R&D support, support for commercialization and regulatory improvements. Important crosscutting tasks are to engage the public in biotechnology, train experts and create centers of excellence as well as ensure policy coordination and guided implementation (via the National Biotechnology Council).

With regard to fostering the biobased industries, the strategy highlights food production, health care and industrial biotechnology. Biotechnology should further enhance bioenergy development and promote clean energy. Finally, the policy framework stresses the importance of the sustainable use of biodiversity for biotechnology and bioprospecting. For each priority area (“thrust”), the policy framework details a set of measures to be taken (“strategies”).

REFERENCES

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Ministry of Science and Technology. (2009). National Biotechnology Policy. Retrieved from: http://www.motr.gov.lk/web/pdf/biotechnology_policy.pdf