

7th EU JSTCC Meeting

Theme 2 FP7
Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and
Biotechnology

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Objectives

- To discuss examples of SA participation in EU Framework programmes
- To give a brief overview of SA strategic focus for theme 2 and the Grand Challenges approach

Past successes (FP6)

FOOD-N-CO	GRAIN LEGUMES
Q-PORKCHAINS	NOVEL Q
BIOTRACER	PHARMAPLANTA
DEVELONUTRI	REPRO
SAFE FOODS	ESASTAP
EAGLES FOOD FORUM	

Current FP7 participation (proposals)

PROPOSALS	REJECTED 1 ST ROUND
PROVAX	INCREDIBLE
SEVAPLANT	RENEWPACK
FANTASTIC	
EASEE-BIO	
BIOCIRCLE	

General

- Four consortia for sweet sorghum call (waiting for feedback re. proposal submissions and project names)
- Bad experience with one of them – European partner did not make the deadline (Italian).

Grand Challenges (10 year plan)

- The “Farmer to Pharma” approach (Food, health, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture, aquaculture, life sciences)
- Space science and technology
- Energy security
- Science and Technology in response to climate change
- Human and social dynamics.

Specific areas for collaboration: general

- Bio-informatics
- Structural biology
- Mentorship programmes for fledgling biotech industry
- Increased exposure for start-up companies in Europe
- Food security – SA has more biotechnological products in animal feed and agricultural sector than in human foods
- At present mostly 1st and 2nd generation biotechnology, want to expand to 3rd generation biotechnology
- HCD
- Theme 2 indicative areas are perfectly aligned with R&D strategy for SA

Areas of interest for South Africa as FP7 partner Theme 2 indicative areas

Sustainable production and management of biological resources

- Aquaculture and fisheries (species specific research, alternative feeds, larval rearing, alternatives for antibiotics, phylogenetics)
- New biofuels feedstocks, not competing with food sources (SA has never subsidised farmers to use food crops for fuel)
- Drought resistant crops
- Biodiversity research (bioprospecting, Fauna and Flora resource management)
- Alternative Farming practices (e.g. organic farming)
- Forestry resources management
- Waste beneficiation and value addition.

Food, health and well-being (“Fork to farm”)

- Plant biotechnology for food, feed, pharmaceuticals
- Traceability (food and feed chain)
- Innovative food and feed processing
- Food by-product beneficiation
- Post harvest technology
- Fermentation and biotechnology.

Life Sciences

- Crop improvement
- Alternative bio-energy production
- Genetic modification (plants and microorganisms)
- Bio-catalysts for new materials
- Cleaner production
- Nano-technology/bioprocessing interface.