

Thematic Session 2

Policy and Perspectives for Nanotechnology in Brazil

The importance of nanotechnology has been increasingly evident in the current economic landscape. The development and use of this technology will eventually change firms' productive processes all around the world. The perception that nanotechnology has the potential to affect different economic sectors, and that it presents itself as an important technology in the new productive paradigm that is being designed, justifies the active role of the State as the main responsible for designing policies capable of fostering the systemic interaction between the main actors involved in its development.

The elaboration of policy aiming at the development of nanotechnology in Brazil gained more visibility in 2004 in the realm of the Industrial, Technological and Foreign Trade Policy (PITCE) and the Multi-annual Plan (PPA) of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Development. With the Policy of Production Development (PDP), nanotechnology has gained special attention as one of the thirteen areas selected as strategic areas, acknowledged as areas bearing future possibilities of development.

Because nanotechnology is considered a “science-based” technology, existing policies are strongly addressed towards the construction of a solid scientific infrastructure. Nevertheless, the main challenge currently posed to the development of nanotechnology concerns how to convert (nano)science into (nano)technology, i.e. how to surpass existing barriers to the effective production, use and diffusion of nanotechnology.

Therefore, the aim of the thematic session **Policy and Perspectives for Nanotechnology in Brazil** is to bring into debate the importance of understanding the dynamics of innovative process from the possibilities presented by nanotechnology, and the main instruments designed in Brazil to its promotion. Based on the Brazilian experience, it is expected that the relevance and the configuration of the innovation policy designed to nanotechnology be brought to discussion.

Guiding Questions:

1. Are existing innovation policies sufficient to actually encourage innovation in nanotechnology in Brazil?
2. What are the main prevailing “bottlenecks” to production, use and diffusion of nanotechnology in Brazil?
3. Should not the design of innovation policy be related to a better understanding of different nanotechnologies’ innovation processes?
4. What are the key opportunities and challenges of nanotechnology companies in Brazil?
5. What policies and instruments could be thought beyond the traditional instruments of (nano)science?
6. The articulation of policies for nanotechnology (science) with those that focus on combating poverty and social inclusion could be an element to help overcome existing barriers to effective production, dissemination and use of nanotechnology in Brazil?