

## **Interview with Mr. Pedro Rocha, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture**

**Could you highlight some engagement strategies with non-state actors that you believe are critical? What should be the process, tactics and/or methods of engaging non-state actors?**

Systematic planning for engaging non-state actors is key, including outlining a planning phase, development phase, an implementation phase and an evaluation phase. The process, tactics and methods would be to aim for first raising awareness to increase the visibility to have more non-state actors understanding the importance of making commitments to the Action Agenda and then set criteria to engage non-state actors to have impactful commitments. A key method is also to focus on the most relevant topic or topics one at a time to engage non-state actors. The systematic planning would enhance the analysis and evaluation of engaging non-state actors. Governments and other stakeholders can engage more non-state actors to make commitments to the Action Agenda using this approach.

**Are there differences between developed and developing countries in engaging non-state actors?**

Developing countries have more differences between them as many of them are heterogenous. Economic, social and political factors differ. The number of varied non-state actors is a factor, including the number of indigenous peoples and local communities. The number of, for example, crops produced in each developing country also varies hugely that has an impact.

**What are the opportunities?**

Some key opportunities based on the experience of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in engaging governments and non-state actors are the following:

Position certain topics and focus on advantages instead of negative messages. In this context, it would mean to develop a perception of the topic of how non-state actors should perceive it to trigger action among non-state actors.

Stakeholders can create a need without setting obligations or being partial by: 1) raising awareness to clarify regulations; 2) identify positions from different governments and non-state actors to develop information materials and dialogues.

Building an enhanced private-public relationship is key through collaborative activities to develop a trust and support in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Regular national, regional and international events on basic information related to the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is also important as main focal points and player change in the biodiversity and biosafety field, including to invite representatives/experts from the SCBD to hold presentations.

**What information-sharing measures does governments and non-state actors need to do in the coming years? What are some innovations needed for success?**

More up-to-date information is needed from governments and non-state actors in the Biosafety Clearing-House. Innovations are to promote interoperability with the national biosafety websites, including

national BCH websites, to the Central BCH website. An opportunity will be to enhance this with the launch of the new BCH platform this year.