Review

Sustainable Nanotechnology Policies for Innovation in Costa Rica

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Abstract

The policies presented in this article address the creation of the National Plan for Sustainable Development of Nanotechnology in Costa Rica (*Plan* Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nanotecnología PNDN en Costa Rica). This attempts to answer the social, economic and political challenges posed by the importance and pertinence of nanotechnology and nanoscience in modern society and, in particular for Costa Rica. Similar plans exist in Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela and Mexico, which in turn exhibit higher indices in nanotechnology development than their regional counterparts. It is important to remark that the appropriate development of nanoscience and nanotechnology is significant not only at economic, social and environmental levels but at the scientific level also; generation of new knowledge- and education+innovation. The sustainable growth of a country must be tightly linked to the design and execution of plans that foster increments in science and technology production directed towards generating innovation. Therefore nanotechnology, as stated in the XXI Century Strategy for 2050, is considered one of the four fundamental pillars for the development of Costa Rica. Apart from the creation of the National Nanotechnology Laboratory (LANOTEC) at the National Center for Advanced Technology Studies (CeNAT) in 2004, the Ministry of Science and Technology promulgated a Public Declaration of Interest of the Research in Nanotechnology and its Applications on May 16th 2011. This declaration motivates public and private entities, in agreement with their material possibilities and formally stated legal and judicial normative, to contribute to scientific research efforts in nanotechnology and its applications by means of financial, logistic and technical contributions.