



The prospects of Labex Europe

The Brazilian point of view

After 11 years in the United States and 7 years in Europe, Labex still has some fine operations to perform. Indeed, large fields of knowledge remain to be explored and several European scientific centres have not yet had the opportunity to set up cooperation and long-term partnership mechanisms with Embrapa.

Embrapa's current strategy, in conformity with its 5th Master Plan, is that of continuing and strengthening the Labex in order to organise its presence in other European countries with recognised technical and scientific competences. Labex Europe is thus still Embrapa's priority after four successive administrations. Thus, when the Brazilian government decided to increase Embrapa's budget in the Growth Acceleration Programme (*Programa de Aceleração do Crescimento*), Labex Europe increased from four to six scientists.

These investments and strategic decisions focused on the Labex are aimed at the progressive internationalisation of Embrapa. One of the expected results is a general improvement of the quality of research through the creation

of research networks for running structuring projects. Indeed, interaction between Embrapa and European centres of excellence encouraged Brazilian scientists to be competitive and as a result they are also encouraged to master cutting-edge research methods. These researchers then become catalysts in the production of new technologies that are useful in the development of crop and livestock farming in the tropics. The setting up of international research networks also creates strong synergy with universities and the other Brazilian research institutions. Another tool consisting of the combining of different kinds of research training at the postdoctoral or other levels with the inclusion of Labex research priorities can be used to strengthen these research networks. Capacity would thus be increased and provide a better response to the expectations of a greater number of Embrapa research centres and other institutions. Thanks to coordination and its scientists, Labex Europe is contributing to bring together the central units and various decentralised parts of Embrapa and also those of all the other Brazilian institutions and European partners too.

Another prospect that can be mentioned is the increasing importance of Labex Europe's contribution on the one hand to triangular capacity-strengthening projects and mobility and on the other to technology transfer involving first of all African countries, Embrapa and European public institutions. With this in view and combined with other Embrapa cooperation tools, other Brazilian research bodies will be involved such as for example farming-livestock research systems and the universities in the various states, but also Latin American research institutes and their partners.

Finally, we hope that the strengthening of Labex Europe using the results achieved as a foundation will inspire other countries to develop similar cooperation models with Europe while creating new synergies with Labex Europe, for the greatest benefit of the countries concerned and the European partners.

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