

Joining a BIO committee is the best way to inform our domestic and international agendas, participate in public outreach, advocacy activities, and stay informed. Committee participation is open to all employees of BIO member companies. Members participate in committee meetings to speak up about issues that are important to them, or simply network with peers.

How committees work

BIO established sophisticated, results-driven committees for companies using cutting-edge, biological innovations to develop technologies and products for agriculture, food systems, energy, and biobased manufacturing. Agriculture & Environment Section (AES) committees function to build efficiency and cross-functional service for all members, with a strong focus on ensuring predictable and science-based regulatory systems, inclusive market access strategies, and relevant positioning in policy and advocacy debates.

Committee members have:

- Access to BIO staff experts with deep policy, regulatory, external affairs, tax, investment, communications, and legal expertise, and connections to industry influencers and stakeholders.
- Ability to help shape BIO's domestic and international policy agenda.
- Timely updates and newsletters on issues of importance to their companies.

Membership

Full-time employees of BIO member companies are eligible to join committees. There is no limit to the number of employees a member company can have on committees.

Operation

All committees operate on a consensus basis. If a consensus position cannot be reached among members, BIO cannot take a public position on that issue. While multiple employees may participate on a committee, each member company participates as one voice, or one vote, on policies and issues that come before each committee.

Meetings

Regular committee meetings typically occur via teleconference on a recurring basis with occasional in-person meetings, as needed or appropriate. Attendance is not mandatory.

Have questions? Ready to join?

Contact biomember@bio.org with questions or to request to join a committee.

Not yet a member? Please contact info@bio.org to join today.

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Agriculture & Environment Staff-Level Working Groups

These working groups focus on developing and advancing policies related to products and/or processes for agriculture, food systems, energy, and biobased manufacturing.

Working groups are responsible for sector-specific development including promotion of favorable regulations, market access and stakeholder engagement strategies, and positioning in climate, sustainability and bioeconomy policy debates.

Agriculture & Environment Market Access¹

This working group focuses on promoting market acceptance and demand for biotechnology innovations through broad stakeholder engagement and relevant policy development related to transparency and growing trust in the innovation ecosystem.

Biobased Manufacturing Policy¹

This working group crafts and advocates for favorable policies and initiatives that broadly support the development and deployment of the biobased products industry at the federal, state, and international level.

*This group currently meets in conjunction with the Chemical Regulatory working group.

Chemical Regulatory¹

This working group focuses on key chemical regulations impacting membership, such as the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

*This group currently meets in conjunction with the Biobased Manufacturing Policy working group.

Microbial Food and Farm Innovation¹

This working group promotes favorable regulation of fermentation/microbial-based food solutions – from flavors, food ingredients and additives, to enzymes for food processing, proteins, and feed ingredients for animal nutrition, as well as other nutrition and wellness products derived from biotechnology.

Plant Science & Regulatory¹

This working group focuses on establishing an improved regulatory paradigm for biotech-derived plants, including transgenic and gene edited. The team leads the development of science-based regulatory policy strategies to drive risk proportionate regulation for these applications for the betterment of industry and consumers.

Animal Science & Regulatory¹

This working group focuses on establishing an improved regulatory paradigm for biotech-derived animals, including transgenic and gene edited. The team leads the development of science-based regulatory strategies to drive risk proportionate regulation for these applications for the betterment of industry and consumers.

Agriculture & Environment Federal Government Relations¹

This working group oversees legislative and executive branch activities on all issues related to the agriculture & environmental sectors, including building and maintaining relationships with policymakers in Congress and the Administration.

Agriculture & Environment State Government Relations¹

This working group oversees state policy management activities on all issues related to biobased products and food and farm innovations, and low carbon fuel standards including maintaining relationships with state and regional biotechnology and agribusiness organizations.

Agriculture & Environment Law Committee¹

This committee provides a forum for the General Counsels from BIO's Agriculture & Environment member-companies to exchange information regarding litigations and other legal issues. Participation is open to a member-company's General Counsel or Chief Legal Officer.

Agriculture & Environment Communications¹

This working group covers all aspects of press and communications work within the Agriculture & Environment Section.

BIO Sustainability Working Group¹

This group is working to ensure biotechnology is favorably positioned globally to meet the health, nutritional, and environmental expectations of society by defining the building blocks and policy drivers around carbon and sustainability.

Additional Committee Opportunities

In addition to committees and working groups within Agriculture & Environment, BIO members are encouraged to join other cross-cutting committees.

Communications

Cost & Value/Communications Committee¹

Helps to direct BIO's Communications Department on the design, implementation and evaluation of public relations, media outreach and consumer awareness efforts under the direction of the Board Standing Committee on Public Awareness. The committee includes senior executives from BIO member companies responsible for public relations, investor relations, public policy, marketing and media relations within their respective companies.

IAMBIO Branding Committee¹

Play an active role in BIO's first-ever branding campaign, IAMBIO. Members of this committee serve as liaisons to their companies to collect video testimonials highlighting the value of biotechnology and the scientists, researchers, and staff that make innovation possible.

Finance

Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) Working Group³

The Working Group shares updates and guides advocacy on the implementation of reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS), which has the authority to review, and potentially alter, foreign investments into the U.S. biotechnology industry. The working group is convened through conference calls on an ad-hoc basis to discuss recent developments in the rulemaking process, exchange insights on the potential impact on the biotechnology industry, and direct BIO's advocacy efforts to shape

the rulemaking outcome through comment letters and engagement with the Departments of Commerce and Treasury, as well as Congress. The overarching goal of this working group is to engage in the rulemaking process to avoid an undue impact on the biotechnology sector's ability to enter into global research partnerships as well as attract foreign investments. Working group participants come from a range of backgrounds, principally from C-suite and finance functions, as well as technologists that understand the use and potential applications of emerging biotechnologies.

Finance & Tax Committee³

Concentrates on tax, financial services, securities, and accounting policies that impact member companies and biotech capital formation. This committee advises BIO staff about the impact of legislation and regulations affecting these policy matters and supports BIO's engagement with Treasury, the SEC, and the IRS, as well as Congress and the Administration. Specific financial services areas of interest include the JOBS Act, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Section 404(b), proxy advisory firms, short selling transparency, market structure reform, tick size, accounting and auditing standards, and SEC life science reporting topics. Tax policy emphases include the Orphan Drug Tax Credit, the R&D credit and payroll R&D credit, federal tax treatment of net operating losses (NOLs), qualified small business stock (QSBS) capital gains treatment, and international tax.

International Affairs

International Advocacy Steering Committee¹

Oversees the development of international advocacy strategy and goals, for approval by International Affairs Committee of the Board. Determines priority countries and issues, including biologics regulations, intellectual property rights and market access issues in markets outside of the U.S. Implements the strategy through direct advocacy with foreign governments, U.S. trade and foreign policy officials, and other global stakeholders.

Subcommittees¹

- Brazil/Latin America
- China
- Europe
- India
- Japan
- Korea
- Mexico
- Multilateral Organizations Working Group¹
- South Africa
- Turkey
- Middle East & North Africa (MENA)
- Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- International Council of Biotech Associations (ICBA)

International Regulatory Committee¹

The International Regulatory Committee works with the Regulatory Affairs Steering Committee to set policy and priorities relating to global regulations of biotechnology products including biotherapeutics and advanced therapies such as cell and gene therapies. The group has a special focus on harmonization of key regulations in priority markets through the International Council on Harmonization (ICH), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Health Organization.

Subcommittees

- BIO ICH Experts
- APEC Working Group
- WHO Working Group
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Legal & Intellectual Property

General Counsels Committee¹

Provides a forum for the General Counsels from BIO member-companies to build collegial relationships and exchange information, experiences, and best practices relating to a wide variety of legal and law department issues. Among others, these may include the development and organization of General Counsel offices, corporate governance, securities, antitrust, supervision of outside counsel, and other practice management activities. Participation is open to the General Counsel or Chief Legal Officer, with a limit of one committee member per company.

Intellectual Property Counsels Committee¹

Promotes strong, predictable intellectual property (IP) protection and efficient transfer of IP rights for the biotechnology industry domestically and internationally. This committee is open to in-house patent counsels of BIO member companies. Law firm patent counsels may join only at the designation of a BIO member company. The committee is responsible for developing domestic and international intellectual property policy that benefits the biotechnology industry. The committee reviews and comments on proposed intellectual property legislation and IP-related regulations from federal agencies. The committee will from time to time approve the filing of amicus briefs in cases that impact the biotechnology industry and develop IP-related position papers, white papers and educational materials. Participation is open to in-house IP counsel of member companies. Focus areas: Amicus, Patent Reform, PTO, and International IP.

Security Committee¹

Shares information relating to security threats and best practices among security officers of BIO member companies. When appropriate, the committee also oversees and monitors security activities relating to BIO events.

Technology Transfer Committee^{1,2}

The Technology Transfer Committee promotes and facilitates industry/academic research partnerships for the biotechnology community. Committee members include persons directly involved in industry and academia partnerships such as university technology transfer officers, company licensing officers, business development officers, and others. Committee members work to improve business development tools for the industry/university tech transfer community, support BIO's industry intelligence and economic impact analysis of translational research, academic/industry sponsored research best practices, and respond to various state, federal and international legislative matters of vital interest to biotechnology technology transfer partnerships.

Member Services

BIO Business Solutions Advisory Board⁴

Provides strategic direction to BIO's cost-savings program, BIO Business Solutions. Helps in identifying and developing programs and offerings that deliver value to members. Composed of senior executives whose current role and/or industry experience is in finance, sourcing, operations and other related business functions within their respective companies. Participation requires board chair approval. BIO Business Solutions® Advisory Board meets in person annually and has quarterly conference calls.

Meetings

BIO IMPACT Advisory Committee⁴

BIO IMPACT is the flagship event for companies working in the agriculture and environment biotech space. This committee provides guidance to BIO on event strategy and helps guide the development of

a program that showcases a broad range of topics and technologies, reflecting emerging trends and issues. The Committee also plays an integral role in attracting new stakeholders to participate in BIO IMPACT.

Note

All Agriculture & Environment working groups may operate independently or as part of a larger group addressing relevant issues on a broader level across the agriculture and environmental sector, depending on the goal to be achieved. For example, a BIO climate change policy initiative would require broad-based input.

Eligibility requirements

¹ Participation is limited to a full-time employee of, or in the discretion of BIO an authorized consultant to, R&D intensive (“core”) member companies. BIO requires written notice from the R&D intensive member company that the consultant is authorized to act as an official company representative. Further, the consultant must sign a BIO confidentiality agreement indicating that he/she will not share any information learned or obtained through participation on the committee with any client other than the BIO member company which authorized his/her participation on its behalf. A consultant generally may not represent more than one BIO member company on any single committee, and any requests for information or for BIO to take or modify any policy position shall come directly from the authorizing BIO member company rather than the consultant.

² Participation is open to full-time employees of R&D intensive (“core”) member companies and universities only.

³ Participation is open to a full-time employee or representative of all BIO member organizations.

⁴ Participation is by invitation only.

NOTE: Each individual committee also may have additional requirements not listed above. Eligibilities are subject to change.