

The Bogota Region, betting on Biotech

Colombia is the most Biodiverse Country per Square Meter in the World

#1
in orchids

#1
in birds

#2
in amphibians

#2
in plants

#3
in reptiles

#4
in mammals

It is home to 10% of all known life forms.

#2 in floral diversity, with more than 50,000 species, 36% of which are endemic.

#3 in the conservation of ecosystems and water resources, as well as wildlife protection.

Source: World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), 2004. Species Data (unpublished, September 2004). Sistema Colombiano de Información de Biodiversidad (SiB) (Colombian Information System on Biodiversity).

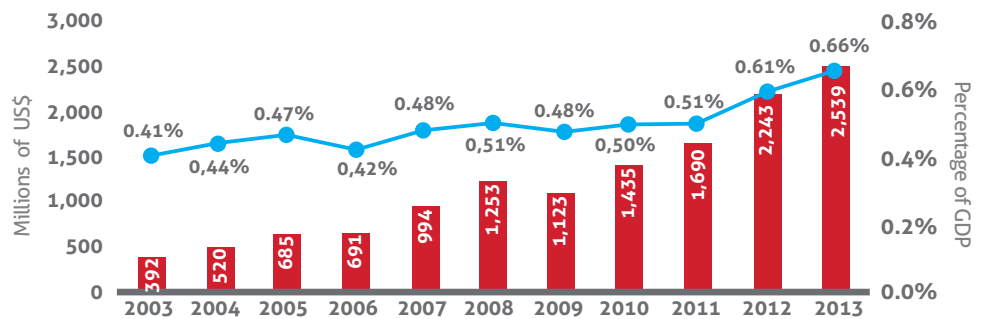
Colombia has Significant Investments in Science, Technology, and Innovation

In the last year, the R&D and Innovation segments received the most investment in science, technology, and innovation activities at 45% and 25%, respectively.

Investment in the sector in Colombia recorded an annual average growth of 21% in the last decade, compared to 16% in the rest of Latin America.

In 2013, 56% of investments in the sector were centered on Bogota (USD 1,438 million).

Investment in Science, Technology, and Innovation Activities in Colombia (2002–2013)



Source: Observatorio Colombiano de Ciencia y Tecnología (Colombian Observatory of Science and Technology), Science and Technology Indicators 2013.

Corporate Network with Leading Companies Requiring Biotechnology Products in Bogota and Cundinamarca

Food and Drink
323 companies
22 multinationals

Cosmetics and Hygiene
35 companies
8 multinationals

Energy
350 companies
150 multinationals



Pharmaceuticals and Health Services
127 companies
6 multinationals



Chemical and Agrochemicals
171 companies
18 multinationals

Source: Invest in Bogota, based on Colombia's Superintendence of Corporations; Bogota Chamber of Commerce.

Biotechnology

The Bogota Region has the Potential to Develop Biotechnology

With excellent availability of human resources and a high concentration of universities, research centers, and technology centers, Bogota offers the following:



- 115 higher education institutions and 35 universities, of which four are among the 50 best in Latin America;

- 2,161 research groups: 41% of the country's research groups. In the last decade, research groups in Colombia have enjoyed an average annual growth of 24%;



- More than 140,000 active researchers: 42% of the country's total;

- 518 doctors in areas related to biotechnology, equivalent to 41% of the country's total;

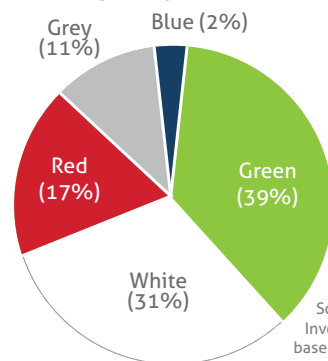
- 39% of the country's technicians and technologists. In the last decade, more than 291,000 technicians, technologists, and professionals and postgraduates obtaining degrees related to the biotechnology sector have graduated in Bogota.

Source: Colciencias, Observatorio Colombiano de Ciencia y Tecnología (Colombian Observatory of Science and Technology), Science and Technology Indicators 2013; Sistema Nacional de Información de Educación Superior-SNIES (National System of Higher Education Information); QS Latin America University Rankings 2013

Bogota: The Country's Biotechnology Cluster

- Bogota has 34 biotechnology research groups: 40% of the country's total;
- More than 60% focus on green and white biotechnology;
- In the last decade, Colombia has positioned itself as the sixth highest country in Latin America in terms of granted patents (5,429). With an average annual growth of 5.7%, it exceeds the Latin American average (3.6%). Bogota obtained approximately 58% of these patents;
- In the last decade, the pharmaceutical and mechanical engineering sectors constituted 35% and 33% of the patents granted to the country. Biotechnology represented 6% (290 patents).

Biotechnology Research Groups in Bogota, by Area (2012)



Source: Invest in Bogota, based on Colciencias.

Colombia Offers Incentives for Innovation

Income Tax Deduction

Up to 175% of the value invested in innovation, science, and technology projects (not to exceed 40% of the net income)

Income Tax Exemption

Up to 100% of the value invested in environmental improvement and control projects.

Sales Tax (VAT) Exemption

Funds received to finance, science, technology, and innovation projects are exempt from income tax.

Support for PhD Employment in Companies

Exemption from sales tax (VAT) on imports of equipment and items for research and technology development centers.

Financial Support

Support for researchers to join research groups, financing of salaries and transportation costs to move them and their families to Colombia.

Co-financing of science, technology, and innovation projects.

Co-financing funds for businesses with the potential to become dynamic and innovative enterprises.

Special credit lines for companies that adopt innovation processes and activities as part of their business strategies.

Invest in Bogota is the investment promotion agency for Bogota and Cundinamarca. The Agency offers, free of charge, and in absolute confidentiality, services for investors during each stage of their investment process: Exploratory phase, start-up phase, operational phase and re-investment.

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