

Biotechnology at Alellyx – facing the challenging of green biotech

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Alellyx was founded in February 2002 by Votorantim New Business and recently acquired by Monsanto group. It is based in Campinas, in São Paulo State, and has approximately 140 employees, most of them with background in biological sciences being 17 MS and 22 PhDs and specialists in intellectual property and regulatory issues. The company is focused on Agricultural Biotechnology for crops important for the Brazilian agribusiness. The main concern facing agriculture is to overcome the challenge to produce more in the same area using less water and nutrients. In addition, plants should be able to growth in marginal lands and poor soils. Biotechnology can help to achieve these goals by identifying genes that allow plants to tolerate biotic and abiotic stresses and processes greater photosynthetic capacity. Alellyx implemented a science based platform to create products to meet these goals. A creative environment joining specialists from different areas is key for the success of such endeavor. As a scientist working in this environment, I have been exposed to an array of opportunities to learn more about all aspects involved in the development of a biotechnology product. From the basic research associated with proof of concept, passing through the economic valuation and product concept, working in a high tech company offers a unique opportunity for scientists interested in doing research in a step further in comparison to the academic environment, closer to a biotechnological product development.

Key words: Agriculture, Green Biotech, Scientist in industry.