A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY

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Several recent attempts have been made to determine the status of the local biotechnology sector in relation to the global opportunities. One of the more recent workshops has dealt with the potentials of the biotechnology initiatives for the Turkish pharmaceutical industry. The representatives from local and international academia and industry have participated in the discussion to define the critical factors and the roadmaps for Turkey.

The potential windows of opportunity for biotechnology have been identified in the sectors such as agriculture, food, environment and energy. Built on the rich variety of fermented foods made from milk and cereals, the global presence of Turkish yeast, pickle and beer companies may not be unexpected.

The growing environmental problems have also brought up the biological treatment alternatives to the center of attention. Similarly, the limited supply of fossil fuels has made the biobased energy sources comparatively attractive. We observe the emergence of bio-economy in Turkey in parallel to the global trends. While the industrial activity in these sectors continue in Turkey, the sectors such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals have been lagging far behind.

In this presentation, the objective is to review the strategic issues for Turkey in the light of the global trends.