

research programs and projects, and the National Biotechnology Commissions created. Such commissions -formed in 1982, 1984, and 1996- were intended to advise the government in o ce on scienti c and technological policies related to the biotechnology sector, particularly in the agriculture, industrial, biomedicine, oil and environmental elds. Even though never deemed as a national priority, the life of such commissions has always been quite short and with a secondary in uence on public policies. In 1982, the National Council for Scienti c and Technological Research (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientí cas y Tecnológicas² - CONICIT) set an Ad-Hoc Commission for the “Study of Biotechnology and Alternatives for its Development in Venezuela”. is group identi ed several initiatives for de ning national programs related to biotechnology, which would be accompanied by the creation of the relevant advising commission. Here we must point out that one of the recommendations issued was to create a National Biotechnology System. e National Commission for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CNIGB) was created in 1984, which deemed as important those remarks and suggestions made by the commission in 1982. By this time, priority areas for research and development were proposed, including: agriculture, biomedicine and industry; also considering creating a system intended to enable the

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