

## The Cuban Biotechnology Industry: An analytical framework

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### **Abstract**

The analysis of Cuban biotechnology reveals how important it is to rely on country-specific institutional innovations in order to evolve coherently from lesser to more technology-intensive industries. In this short contribution, it is argued that the development of the Cuban biotechnology industry must be understood in the context of the Cuban socio-political context. Indeed, the Cuban biotechnology has been conceived as an element of the state-funded health system, and is part of a broad strategy designed primarily to preserve a healthy population. The government investments and strategic involvement have been essential to create a research and production infrastructure and a qualified workforce which led to the creation of the West Havana Biocluster. Another feature of this industry has been the widespread and long-term state-fuelled integration of the biotechnology in a multi-institutional system, aimed at supporting interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing. It will be argued that these characteristics are critical to the high innovation rate achieved by this industry.