

Improving lives through sustainable bioinnovations

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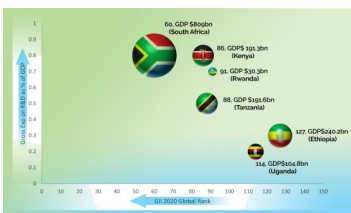
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Call for Applications

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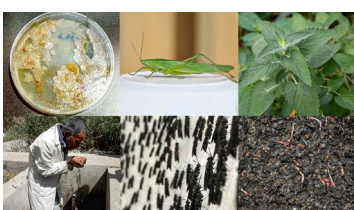
THEME: Supporting Entrepreneurial Scientists to Spur Health, Food Systems, Environment, Industry innovation in Eastern Africa

07th - 21st October 2020

DEADLINE: 5TH OCTOBER 2020



Impact of COVID-19 on SMEs



Time for nature

BioInnovate Africa enhances support to COVID-19 response

BioInnovate Africa is supporting five new innovation projects addressing COVID-19. The support complements ongoing efforts within the BioInnovate Africa network to find African based solutions to the control and management of the disease. The projects will develop diagnostic tools (Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute), validate

herbal remedies with antiviral properties (Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization and Makerere University, Uganda), produce immune boosting aromatic herb extracts (Gudie Leisure Farms, Uganda), and harness data science to map the impact of COVID-19 on food systems (*icipe*, Kenya).

A third cohort of women fellows selected

A total of 13 fellows have been selected for the third cohort of BioInnovate Africa Fellowship for Women Scientists (BA-FWS). The fellowship will run from January to June 2021. This combined with the first and second cohort, brings the total number of fellows to 37 since 2018. BA-FWS offers opportunities for early and mid-career women scientists to work with and learn from the diverse BioInnovate Africa bioeconomy projects and networks in Eastern Africa. The fellows are hosted in BioInnovate Africa project implementing partner organisations outside their home countries for a period of four to six months, where they gain experience and establish networks to advance their skills, innovation capacity and overall career progression. The fellows will continue to benefit from BA-FWS Alumni Network, which they decided to establish at a joint fellows meeting on 3 August 2020. Under the interim leadership of Dr Alice Litta

(Uganda) and Dorothy Mugane (Kenya), the network is to be an affinity-based community of women scientists, actively collaborating on biological based research and innovation activities in Eastern Africa.

Click [here](#) to view profiles of the BioInnovate Africa women fellows.



BioInnovate Africa cohort two women fellows.

8th BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee meeting

On 27 August 2020, BioInnovate Africa held its eighth Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting virtually. PAC assessed progress of the projects, considering also the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the overall performance in this period. PAC acknowledged the effort of the project implementing partners to adopt mitigation measures, e.g. online options that ensures work continues. PAC also advised on the need for innovative ways to build back from the effects of the COVID-19.



Coming soon: the first Eastern Africa Bioeconomy Conference

BioInnovate Africa together with the East Africa Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and partners are organising the first Eastern African Bioeconomy Conference, to be held virtually on 21 – 22 October 2020. The theme of the conference is, 'Bioeconomy growth prospects for Eastern Africa'. The conference brings together regional and international stakeholders such as government officials, scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers, civil society among others from academia, public and private sector to network and share experiences on bioeconomy development in Africa including appropriate enabling environment to foster its growth. The Eastern Africa

Regional Bioeconomy Strategy will be launched during the conference. The conference will also showcase bioinnovations with potential investment opportunities in the region. Click [here](#) for more information about the conference.

