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The third cohort of BiInnovate Africa women scientists fellowship underway

BioInnovate Africa offers women scientists in eastern Africa an opportunity to contribute to the development of an African bioeconomy, by participating in a research fellowship for four-to-six months. Fellows work closely with BiInnovate Africa project implementing partners in Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, and focus on innovative biologically based products like healthy foods, industrial enzymes, biopesticides, biofertilizers, insect-based proteins, and phytochemicals. Some fellows also work on sustainable bioeconomy strategies for the region. A total of 10 mid-career women scientists representing the countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are currently participating in the third cohort of the fellowship. The fellows commenced their fellowship in January 2021 and are expected to complete by September 2021.



Jeanne Rusizana, a BiInnovate Africa fellow from Rwanda, conducts her fellowship research study under the project on Integrating digital solutions to improve production of virus-free sweet potato vines.

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

Partnership with Dartmouth College on Technoeconomic Analyses (TEA)

BiInnovate Africa and the Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College, USA, have partnered to build capacity for technoeconomic analysis (TEA) of innovation projects in Eastern Africa through a six-month tailor-made remote/online course. Six students from BiInnovate Africa participating universities in Eastern Africa were competitively selected in December 2020 by the Thayer School of Engineering, USA to undertake the course. The students commenced the online course in January 2021 and together with their student counterparts and colleagues in the USA, and as part of their projects, carried out a TEA on some of the BiInnovate Africa supported projects.



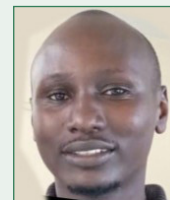
Devon Matti, USA



Nadege Mugisha, Burundi



Brenda Okoko, Kenya



Sammy Chebon, Kenya

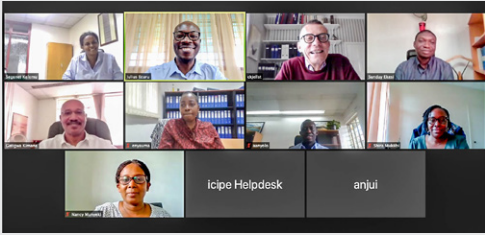
Webinar on 'Building back better from COVID-19 pandemic'

On 10 February 2021, BiInnovate Africa in collaboration with Invest in Africa (IIA) held a webinar for its project implementing partners on how to 'building back better from COVID-19 pandemic'. There were 55 participants at the interactive session, which was facilitated by Ms Muthoni Njogu, a disaster risk expert and social entrepreneur. The webinar presented strategies, which organisations and firms should consider to build back better from COVID-19 pandemic situation and hedge against future disease outbreaks, natural disasters and related risks.



External evaluation of BioInnovate Africa

In December 2020, a team of three independent consultants were commissioned by *icipe* and Sida to carry out an external review of Sida support to bioscience research and innovation in East Africa since 1999, and evaluation of BioInnovate Africa Phase II. The evaluation exercise was completed in May 2021, and included in-person and virtual interviews with partners in BioInnovate Africa network, *icipe* management, Sida, policy actors, and other regional and global stakeholders. A preliminary finding of the evaluation was discussed with *icipe* and Sida at the annual review meeting held on 12 April 2021; and the team is preparing a final report.



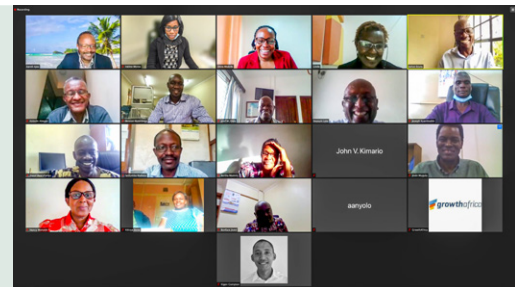
10th BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee meeting



The tenth BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held virtually on 27 April 2021. The meeting discussed BioInnovate Africa progress and strategic issues for bioeconomy development in the region, including financing, bio-policies, research and innovation collaborations, and capacity building in bio-entrepreneurship.

Close out of cohort I Biobusiness Bootcamp

On 25 May 2021, BioInnovate Africa in partnership with Growth Africa Foundation held a joint session for its biobased partner enterprises, where they shared experiences, visions and value propositions for various customer segments, having completed an 8 month long biobusiness acceleration programme. The programme aimed at preparing the project teams to move their innovative biologically based products towards market launch and making them investor ready.



External awards and recognition



Dr Julius Ecuru
Manager, BioInnovate Africa

BioInnovate Africa Programme Manager, Dr Julius Ecuru, was elected by Globelics community to be a member of the scientific board of the Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems ([Globelics](#)). The new scientific board will commence its tenure in November 2021.



Dr Yifru Tafesse
Chair, BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)

BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair, Dr Yifru Tafesse, was appointed Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) by the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia.



Prof Ruth Oniang'o
Member, BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)

BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) member, Prof Ruth Oniang'o, was awarded the 2021 Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Include Award in Honor of George Washington Carver. Click [here](#) to read more about the award.

Coming soon: the second Eastern Africa Bioeconomy Conference

BioInnovate Africa together with the East Africa Science and Technology Commission (EASTECCO), Biosciences eastern and central Africa - International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) Hub, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) – Africa Centre, and partners are organising the second Eastern African Bioeconomy Conference. The conference will be held on 10-11 November 2021, with a few in-person participants (due to COVID-19 pandemic situation) and a larger virtual audience. The theme will be '**Bioeconomy for a sustainable and resilient future**'.

The conference will bring 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 as well as review progress of bioscience research and innovation in Eastern Africa, and how the efforts are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the East African Community (EAC) vision 2050, and African Union Agenda 2063. The conference will build momentum for implementation of the Eastern Africa regional bioeconomy strategy and explore opportunities for inter-African cooperation and cross continental collaboration in sustainable bioeconomy development.

