



e-newsletter

Enhancing bioeconomy growth prospects in Eastern Africa

BiInnovate Africa partners unveil new products

Between January and March 2022, BiInnovate Africa supported project partners unveiled new biobased products to the market, which also signalled a successful end of their respective BiInnovate Africa project implementation and beginning of their enterprise growth journey. The products were developed through collaborations between scientists in the public and private sectors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The new products include:

Nutreal, food enriched with insect-based proteins. Nutreal comprises new cricket enriched cookies and instant porridge flour in Kenya and Uganda. The partners involved in the development of the product include Makerere University, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), Agrarian Systems Limited, and Treasure Industries Limited (TIL).



Synamon, *Almi*, and *Joraku* are new enterprises in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, respectively that produce and market food nutritionally enhanced with sorghum and millet. The companies produce affordable multigrain snack, breakfast crunchies, quick cooking or instant porridge flour. The partners involved in the development of the products and establishment of the enterprises include Makerere University (Uganda), Hawassa University (Ethiopia), and Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania).



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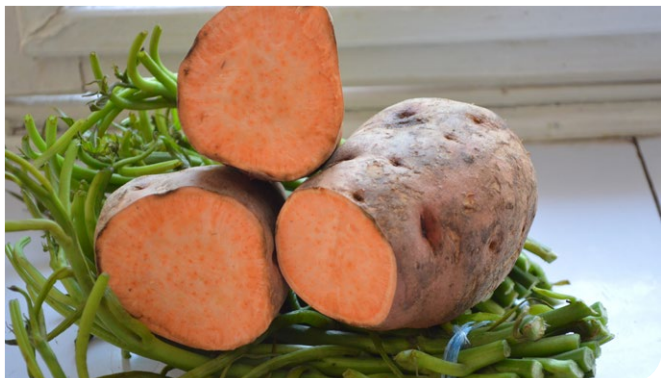
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Unique Eats are food nutritionally enhanced with orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) puree. In Uganda the puree is produced by *Lishe@Biofresh*. The puree is used in making delicious Chapatis, bread, and mandazis. The partners involved in the development of the product include Euro Ingredients Limited (EIL) (Kenya) International Potato Center (CIP) (Kenya), Hawassa University (Ethiopia), and Makerere University (Uganda).



Senai seeds are clean sweet potato vines produced for sweet potato farmers in East Africa. The partners involved in the development of the product include Makerere University (Uganda), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) (Kenya), SENAI Farm Supplies Limited (Uganda), MIMEA International Kenya Limited (Kenya), Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)- Mikocheni, and Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB).



OKOA Mushroom Blocks are clean and well formulated substrates for the production of mushrooms. The partners involved in the development of the product include Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO), OKOA Enterprises (Tanzania), and Global Agro Concept Limited (Rwanda).



A refractance window dryer (RWD) is an equipment for commercial drying of fruits and vegetables. The partners involved in the development of the equipment include Makerere University, Uganda, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), TONNET Agro-engineering company Limited (Uganda), East Africa Nutraceuticals Ltd (EAN) (Kenya), Food and Nutrition Solutions Ltd (FONUS) (Uganda), and Uganda Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives.



AgroZ Sese free is a tsetse fly repellent product that is intended to reduce incidence of trypanosomiasis in communities adjacent to game parks. The partners involved in developing the product include Biotechnology Research Institute – Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (BIORI-KALRO), Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (KENTTEC), Vector and Vector Borne Disease Institute – Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency, A to Z Textile Mills Limited, and Gulu University, Uganda.



BioCon East Africa Limited is a new enterprise operating in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda and provides solutions for waste-water treatment and solid waste management, especially from agro-industries. The partners involved in the development of the technology and setting up the enterprise include Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) (Tanzania), Addis Ababa University (AAU) (Ethiopia), Makerere University (Uganda), and Innovative Technology and Energy Center (iTEC) (Tanzania).



icipe and Sida renew cooperation

On 21 March 2022, *icipe* and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) signed a new five-year corporation agreement to further strengthen the capacity of scientists in Eastern African universities, research institutes, and private sector to translate biologically based research outputs into practical solutions that address the region's development priorities. Scientists from eight (8) eastern Africa countries of Burundi, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda will receive support through competitive grants for regional research and innovation collaboration projects administered by BioInnovate Africa. Read more about the signed corporation agreement.

[Read more](#)

L-R: Dr Segenet Kelemu, Director General of *icipe* and Dr Claes Kjellstrom, Senior Policy Specialist/Research, Sida signing the BioInnovate Africa phase III Agreement on 21 March 2022.



Cohort II of TEA online course successfully completed

BioInnovate Africa and the Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College, USA, are collaborating to build capacity for technoeconomic analysis (TEA) of innovation projects in Eastern Africa through a six-month tailored online course. A total of five students were competitively selected for the second cohort from BioInnovate Africa participating universities in Eastern Africa. They commenced the course in January 2022 and completed successfully by end of June 2022. The profile of the students can be viewed on the BioInnovate Africa website.

Senior Research Advisor, Sida, Sweden meets BioInnovate Africa team

On 26 April 2022, Dr Susanne Johansson, the Senior Research Advisor at the Unit for research cooperation at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden, met the BioInnovate Africa team during her visit to *icipe* Duduville Campus in Nairobi. Dr Johansson commended BioInnovate Africa for its role in supporting bio-based innovations and the development of a sustainable bioeconomy in Eastern Africa.



L-R: Abel Anyolo, Finance and Administration, BioInnovate Africa; Shira Mukiibi, Business Development Manager, BioInnovate Africa; Dr Susanne Johansson, Senior Research Advisor, Sida; and Dr Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa.

Launch of the 1st State of Bioeconomy in Eastern Africa Report

On 23 June 2022, BioInnovate Africa in partnership with the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)-Africa Centre, launched the first State of Bioeconomy in Eastern Africa Report, 2022, in Arusha, Tanzania. The launch was officiated by the Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Eng. Steven Mlote. The event was preceded by a regional bioeconomy roundtable policy dialogue on the implementation of the East Africa Regional Bioeconomy Strategy. The report provides latest scientific evidence of the status of bioeconomy in the region, including technical overview of the availability bioresources and the competitive edge for developing a sustainable bioeconomy. The report is envisaged to be published annually. To read the report, [click here](#).



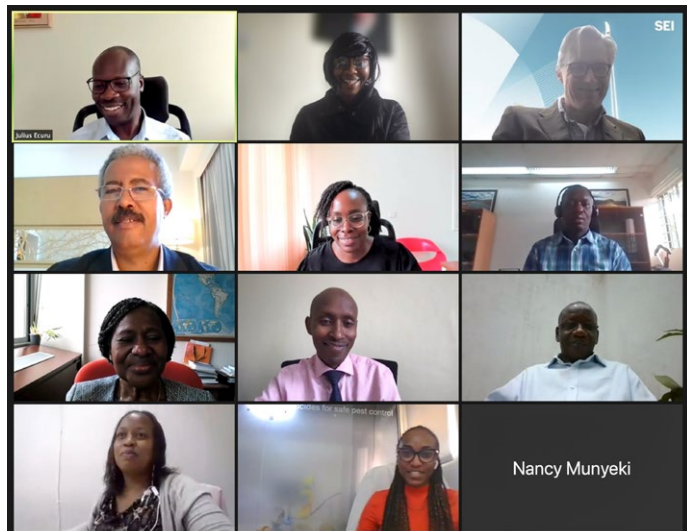
The EAC adopts a new regional bioeconomy strategy

On 19 - 23 April 2022, the East African Community (EAC) council of ministers approved a new ten-year regional bioeconomy strategy for East Africa, the first of its kind in Africa and the second in the world after the European Union (EU). The regional bioeconomy strategy widens opportunities for the countries in East Africa to deepen their cooperation in developing a sustainable and resilient bioeconomy. The development of the strategy was through a national and regional consultative process spearheaded by EASTECO and the councils and commissions of science and technology and supported by BioInnovate Africa. Plans are underway to formally launch the strategy.



13th and 14th BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee meeting

The thirteenth BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held virtually on 24 February 2022, and the fourteenth PAC meeting was held as a hybrid on 22 and 24 June 2022 with in-person participants in Arusha, Tanzania. Both meetings reviewed progress of activities and achievements over the last five years and made reflections on the future of BioInnovate Africa with respect to strategies to enhance its contribution



13th PAC meeting

to bioeconomy growth and development in Eastern Africa, widening partnerships, and discussing the value bio-based products create for communities in the region. The latter meeting also welcomed three new appointed members to the PAC, namely Dr Francine Ntouni, Prof Anthony Mshandete, and Prof Dhanjay Jhurry. Read their bios below.



14th PAC meeting



Dr Francine Ntouni
[Read Bio>](#)



Prof Anthony Mshandete
[Read Bio>](#)



Prof Dhanjay Jhurry
[Read Bio>](#)

Sida delegates visit *icipe*

Delegates from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) working at 12 different embassies in Africa, visited *icipe* Duduville campus on 11 May 2022. The visit aimed to increase the delegates' knowledge on practical ways to integrate the perspective of environment and climate change, with a focus on biodiversity, into agriculture market development programmes in order to be better equipped to contribute to a shift towards sustainable development. BioInnovate Africa shared its work during the visit.



icipe/BioInnovate Africa call for concept notes for regional innovation collaboration projects in eastern Africa

On 25 May 2022, BioInnovate Africa published a call for concept notes for Regional Innovation Collaboration Projects in eastern Africa. The call is intended for scientists from universities, research institutes, and government agencies to work jointly with their counterparts in the private sector to co-develop innovative biological based goods and services or product delivery systems, and pilot new technologies with good prospects for business and the market. The application deadline is **19 July 2022**. Details about this call can be obtained [here](#).

