



# e-newsletter

*Strengthening innovation collaboration for a sustainable bioeconomy in eastern Africa*

## **icipe BioInnovate Africa announced ten new grants for regional innovation collaboration projects in eastern Africa**

**B**ioInnovate Africa announced 10 new grants amounting to approximately USD 10 million for regional innovation collaboration projects in eastern Africa.

The grantees were competitively selected by the BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) on 11 November 2022. The selected projects are aligned with the priorities of the recently adopted East African Regional Bioeconomy Strategy, and aim to improve food production and food safety, reduce post-harvest losses, provide biodegradable alternative packaging materials, and improve human and animal health. The projects will develop novel products, test them in the market, and validate business models for scaling the biologically based solutions in the market during the three years of their implementation. Read more about the selected projects and their implementing organisations [click here](#)



### **BioInnovate Africa video documentary**

On 15 September 2022, BioInnovate Africa officially released its video documentary on *Innovation in the development context of eastern Africa*. The documentary is a 40-minute illustration of the value of innovation and innovation ecosystem building in transforming societies into modern economies. It highlights BioInnovate Africa's model of innovation ecosystem building, which emphasizes collaborations among academia, government, and industry actors. The documentary features science and innovation leaders in eastern Africa, as well as academics and innovators, who explain the opportunities that investing in science and innovation brings to the region. Watch the documentary [click here](#)

**INNOVATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
CONTEXT OF EASTERN AFRICA**

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

[Fifteenth and sixteenth BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee meeting](#)

[BioInnovate Africa annual review meeting](#)

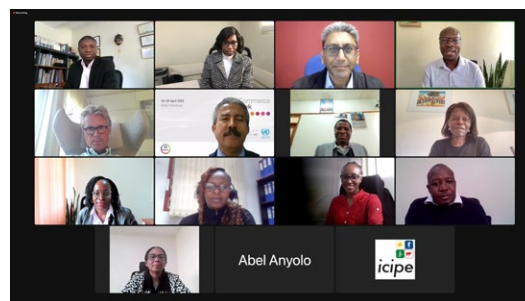
[Selection of cohort III students: partnership with Dartmouth college on techno-economic analyses](#)

[BioInnovate Africa joins the RSB family](#)

[icipe BioInnovate Africa call for proposals for early-stage bio incubation projects](#)

## Fifteenth and sixteenth BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee meeting

The 15<sup>th</sup> BioInnovate Africa PAC meeting was held virtually on 24 August 2022. The meeting reviewed and shortlisted 28 concept notes for regional innovation collaboration projects in eastern Africa, which were invited to proceed to full proposal development. The 16<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting was convened as a hybrid on 10 and 11 November 2022 with in-person participants in *icipe* Duduville Campus, Nairobi. At the meeting, the PAC reviewed comments of the independent experts on the full proposals, and made their own assessment of the quality, feasibility, and potential impact of the proposals. The PAC selected 10 proposals to be awarded this round of funding.



Top Right: The 15th PAC virtual meeting held on 24 August 2022; Bottom Right: The 16th PAC hybrid meeting held on 10-11 November 2022, in *icipe* Duduville Campus in Nairobi.

## Selection of cohort III students: partnership with Dartmouth college on technoeconomic analyses

*icipe* BioInnovate Africa and the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, USA, are collaborating to build capacity for technoeconomic analysis (TEA) of innovation projects in eastern Africa, through a six-month fully sponsored tailor-made online course. The course was jointly established in 2019 and aims at providing human resource development to assess potential economic feasibilities, bottlenecks and to identify further research and development requirements during early stages of biobased technologies, with real world application being in the developing country setting. On 28 November 2022, a total of nine students from universities in BioInnovate Africa participating countries were competitively selected by the Thayer School of Engineering, USA to undertake the course. They are: Kariim Ishaq, from the Nelson Mandela African Institution

of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Tanzania; Abdishie Yosa, from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Tchcaya Loemba Alde Belgard, from the NM-AIST, Tanzania; Ogala Oscar, from Taita Taveta University, Kenya; Kachila Philemon, from Taita Taveta University, Kenya; Katongole Richard, from Makerere University, Uganda; Koskei Kiplangat, from the University of Nairobi, Kenya; Miiro Ashirafu, from Makerere University, Uganda; and Namusoso Raymond, from Busitema University, Uganda. They all constitute the third cohort of TEA students and will commence their online course in January 2023. Discussions are ongoing between BioInnovate Africa and Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, USA, to expand the course to include formal masters and Ph.D. scholarships.

## BioInnovate Africa annual review meeting

On 5 October 2022, Dr Claes Kjellstrom and Dr AnnaKarin Norling from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), held an in-person meeting with *icipe* senior Management, including BioInnovate Africa team, at *icipe* Duduville

Campus in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting discussed the implementation progress of BioInnovate Africa phase III, including plans for onboarding new projects. The Sida representatives also interacted with some of the research and innovation activities at the Centre.





## BioInnovate Africa joins the RSB family

BioInnovate Africa is pleased to join the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), a global membership organisation that drives the sustainable transition to a bio-based and circular economy. The membership began in November 2022. As a member, BioInnovate Africa has exclusive access to RSB platforms, initiatives, webinars, events, and knowledge-building opportunities. These opportunities will contribute to expansion of BioInnovate Africa network, especially with industry players in the circular and bio-based economy.



## icipe BioInnovate Africa call for proposals for early-stage bio incubation projects

On 21 November 2022, BioInnovate Africa published a call for proposals for Early-Stage Bio Incubation Projects. The call is intended for entrepreneurial scientists from universities and research institutes in BioInnovate Africa participating countries, to establish new and innovative biologically based enterprises that are sustainable and contribute to poverty reduction in eastern Africa. Submitted proposals should be based on research outputs or scientific discoveries that can be translated to practical solutions for industry and society. Ideas presented should have past proof of concept in the laboratory or field. The closing date of this call is open and is dependent on the quality, innovativeness, feasibility, and potential impact of the submitted proposals. Details about this call can be accessed [click here](#)



## Pictorial



On 6 – 7 October 2022, BioInnovate Africa Programme Manager, Dr Julius Ecuru, attended the European Union bioeconomy conference held in Brussels, Belgium, and shared about the eastern Africa's dimension of a bioeconomy.



BioInnovate Africa shared its work during a visit to *icipe* on 28 October 2022 by a delegation from the German Embassy in Kenya, consisting of nine members of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag).



On 1 November 2022, BioInnovate Africa PAC member, Prof Ruth Oniang'o received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Union of Food Science & Technology (IUFoST) for her contributions to the field of food science and technology for the benefit of all humanity. Read more [click here](#)



On 14 November 2022, BioInnovate Africa shared its work during *icipe* Governing Council tour of the Centre's research and development activities.