



e-newsletter

One Planet – Sustainable Bioeconomy Solutions for Global Challenges

BiInnovate Africa is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and managed by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) in Nairobi, Kenya



Global Bioeconomy Summit in Africa for the first time

The 4th Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) was held on 23 – 24 October 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Summit was organised by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) together with the East African hosting partners – the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*)/ BiInnovate Africa, the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). The theme of the Summit was ‘One Planet-Sustainable Bioeconomy Solutions for Global Challenges’. The first GBS was organised by the Federal German Government’s Bioeconomy Council and held in Berlin in 2015. ...Cont’d pg 2



GBS2024 welcome address by Dr Andrew Mwhia Karanja, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Kenya

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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP COLUMN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT COMES TO AFRICA

Dr Abdou Tenkouano

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The second and third GBSs were also held in Berlin, Germany in 2018 and 2020, respectively. GBS2024 in Africa was the first one to be held outside Germany. GBS2024 brought together 569 in-person participants including politics, science, civil society and the business sector from 57 countries representing all hemispheres, and a larger audience (>2000) followed virtually. The Summit discussed global bioeconomy issues in an inclusive manner, emphasizing resilient and sustainable food systems, bioeconomy contribution to sustainable transition to fossil-free economies, conservation of biodiversity, and the use of innovation as a driver for new economic opportunities, especially jobs for the youth. The Summit recommendations are outlined in the **GBS2024 Communiqué** accessible [here](#) and the **Youth Communiqué** accessible [here](#)

At GBS2024, BioInnovate Africa showcased its work on advancing bioeconomy in Africa through support and investments in new wastewater treatment systems, herbal remedies for malaria control, banana fibre paper for controlling plant pests, value added honey products, biofungicides for coffee wilt disease management, rhizobia-mycorrhizae biofertilizer, and herbal insect repellent for livestock productivity. These innovative biobased solutions are environmentally sustainable and build resilience to climate change. Besides, the GBS2024 opened opportunities for collaborations with international research institutions, industry leaders, and policymakers to scale up bioinnovations in Africa. Beyond the Summit, it is hoped that delegates will continue conversations that encourage global stakeholders to invest in African biobased ventures, and policy frameworks will be developed to foster sustainable biobased innovations addressing challenges like biodiversity loss and climate change.

Critical for bioeconomy development will be the continued engagement of the youth to promote talent and skills development. Education, skills, biobased innovation capacity and entrepreneurship, are recurring needs of the African youth that should be met to build jobs and businesses of tomorrow.

A day after the GBS2024, members of the IACGB visited *icipe* campus, where they held a meeting. They met with *icipe* staff and students. Their remarks and personal stories of how they became leaders in the global bioeconomy development inspired scientists and students at the Centre who are working on several innovative biobased solutions for soil health, nutrition, plant and animal health, climate resilience, and biodiversity among others.



BioInnovate Africa exhibition booth at GBS2024



Prof Karoli Njau explains about new wastewater treatment system to a GBS2024 delegate



Team members of BioInnovate Africa supported project developing a biofungicides for coffee wilt disease management



The International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) members during their visit to *icipe* campus on 25 October 2024



The next GBS will be held in 2026. The hosting of GBS2026 will coincide with the Irish presidency of the Council of the European Union, providing a unique opportunity to showcase the bioeconomy on both the European and global stage.

For more information about GBS2024, visit the official website [here](#), and [here](#) for a playlist of the Summit recordings. GBS2024 photos can be accessed [here](#)

Twenty first BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting

The 21st BioInnovate Africa PAC meeting was held in-person in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22 October 2024. The meeting preceeded the Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS2024) held for the first time in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23 –24 October 2024. The PAC interacted with team leaders of BioInnovate Africa supported projects and discussed updates on their respective progress. View additional photos of this meeting [here](#)



BioInnovate Africa gender integration training

On 7–8 October 2024, BioInnovate Africa held a virtual training on gender integration. The training was attended by Bioinnovate Africa supported project implementing partners and women fellows, and was facilitated by Professor Salome Bukach of the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies at the University of Nairobi. In total, there were 48 participants, 26 of them were women.

The training explored BioInnovate Africa's Gender Strategy 2023–2028, and through interactive Q&A sessions, group discussions, and application exercises, the participants were equipped with knowledge and tools necessary for enhancing gender-responsive practices into bioinnovation projects for a sustainable bioeconomy.

BioInnovate Africa exhibit at the inaugural *icipe* science week

On 11 November 2024, BioInnovate Africa participated in the inaugural *icipe* Science Week, showcasing its work in fostering a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa. As part of the event, the BioInnovate Africa exhibition booth showcased research and innovative solutions developed through its supported projects, and highlighted success stories in transforming scientific research into viable business opportunities. Some of the innovations featured in the BioInnovate Africa exhibit included waste-to-value solutions, biofertilizers, and biopesticides among others, which address pressing societal challenges like food security, climate resilience, and economic growth. The event provided an opportunity to interact with key stakeholders, including scientists and researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders, while demonstrating BioInnovate Africa's commitment to advancing science, technology, and innovation for a sustainable future in Africa and beyond. View more photos of the event [here](#)



An overview about BioInnovate Africa presented by its Communications Officer, Ms. Valine Moraa, at the inaugural *icipe* Science Week

Empowering women in science: insights from BioInnovate Africa's cohort IV fellows



From left to right: Dr Iman Brema, Margareth Lupembe, and Judith Kobusinge, beneficiaries of cohort IV BioInnovate Africa Fellowship for Women Scientists initiative

The BioInnovate Africa Fellowship for Women Scientists initiative has empowered a diverse group of female scientists in Africa through regional cooperation in bioinnovation and bioentrepreneurship. The fellowship was established in 2018 and provides opportunities to early and mid-career women scientists to work with and learn from BioInnovate Africa bioeconomy projects and networks in eastern Africa. As a result, the fellows enhance their skills, explore innovative solutions, and engage in collaborative work that addresses societal challenges in agriculture, health, and environmental sustainability. We feature the fellowship motivation, research project, and future aspirations of three cohort IV fellows. [Read more](#)