

BioInnovate 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



icipe



Sida

Communication training for BioInnovate Africa project teams

As part of BioInnovate Africa's effort to strengthen science communication across its network of supported regional innovation projects, a communications training was held at *icipe*'s Thomas Odhiambo Campus (iTOC) in Mbita, on 31 March – 2 April 2025, under the theme "Iron Sharpens Iron." This capacity-building activity brought together a total of 23 participants (15 of whom were women). They comprised communications officers and project team members from BioInnovate Africa supported innovation collaboration projects involving universities, research institutes, and firms that translate biologically based research outputs into products and services to address societal challenges and stimulate a sustainable bioeconomy in eastern Africa. The participants' nationalities included Burundi, D.R. Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Uganda.



The participants of the BioInnovate Africa communications training held at *icipe*'s Thomas Odhiambo Campus (iTOC) in Mbita Point, Western Kenya, on 31 March – 2 April 2025.

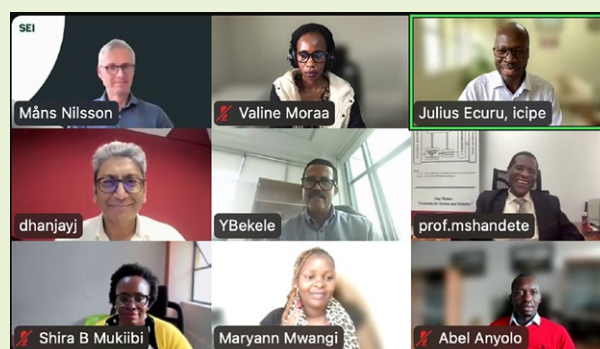
The training covered practical and engaging topics ranging from effective communication of complex scientific concepts, to developing compelling stories on science and innovation, and how to engage with media and digital

platforms. It sharpened participants' fundamental skills to effectively communicate bioinnovations and enhance documentation and visibility of projects achievements and outcomes. For more details, read the training info note [here](#).

Inside this Issue

- Mälardalen University visit *icipe* BioInnovate Africa
- BioInnovate Africa annual review meeting
- BioInnovate Africa Bio Venture hub
- BioInnovate Africa women scientists fellowship
- Pictorial

Twenty second BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting



The 22nd BioInnovate Africa PAC meeting was held virtually on 10 April 2025. The PAC were updated on the implementation progress of BioInnovate Africa and discussed a strategic financial framework to support the growth of a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa.

Mälardalen University visit *icipe* BioInnovate Africa

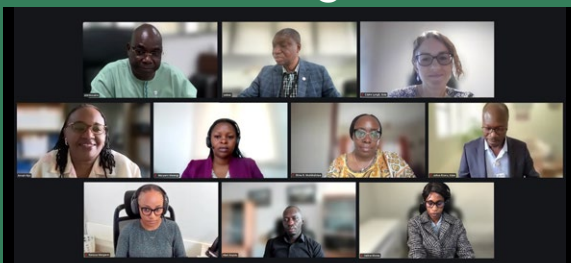


Dr Barni Nor (1st left) and Prof. Damir Isovich (4th left) interacted with team members of BioInnovate Africa supported project on developing banana fibre technology for the control of cyst nematodes, a pest of economic important to potato farmers in eastern Africa.

On 27 May 2025, Prof. Damir Isovich, Vice President for Internationalisation at Mälardalen University (MDU), Sweden, accompanied by Dr Barni Nor, Strategist, visited *icipe* Duduville campus and met with the Director General, Dr Abdou Tenkouano, the BioInnovate Africa team, and other *icipe* colleagues. The visit was part of MDU's broader strategic mission to inform its future research partnerships and research-for-

impact strategy. Recognising *icipe*'s unique mandate and expertise, they expressed strong interest in opportunities for mutual learning and impactful collaboration. The meeting discussed mutual areas of interest for research collaboration between MDU, *icipe*, and BioInnovate Africa, including bioeconomy, environment and biodiversity, Applied AI, quantum computing, modelling, future energy, and the One Health approach.

BioInnovate Africa annual review meeting



On 3 June 2025, Dr Claire Lynga, Senior Research Advisor at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), held a virtual meeting with *icipe* and BioInnovate Africa team. The meeting discussed the implementation progress of BioInnovate Africa.

BioInnovate Africa women scientists fellowship

BioInnovate Africa provides an opportunity to women scientists in eastern Africa to contribute to the development of an African bioeconomy. Through a three- to four-month research fellowship hosted outside their home countries, selected fellows work closely with BioInnovate Africa project implementing partners in the eight eastern African countries where the initiative operates. In March

2024, 11 mid-career women scientists were selected for the fourth cohort of the fellowship that runs until August 2025. To date, seven fellows have completed their fellowship, while the remaining four are currently undertaking their fellowship, which concludes by the end of August 2025. We feature the experience of two fellows, Rashidah Kaggwa and Belinda Siangu, who completed their fellowship in April 2025.



Rashidah Kaggwa

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Belinda Siangu

[Read more >>](#)

BioInnovate Africa Bio Venture hub

The Bio Venture hub continued to provide early-stage incubation support to three teams from *icipe*'s scientific community, working on:

Sericin: a natural, water-soluble protein extracted from silkworms. Renowned for its skin and hair benefits, sericin helps maintain skin hydration, enhances elasticity, supports collagen production, and offers protection against free radicals. This contributes to a more youthful and healthy appearance.



Sericin



Dr Nelly Ndungu,
team leader

A natural mosquito control solution derived from plant extracts budded "Uzimax":

it targets and kills mosquito larvae in stagnant water sources such as rice paddies, drainage channels, and household containers. It helps prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.



Uzimax



Dr John Bwire,
team leader

An e-commerce platform

budded "LIMA" designed to help smallholder farmers easily access ecofriendly agricultural inputs. It aims to meet the growing need for accessible and sustainable farming solutions.



Left to right: Oscar Esibi and Dr Kennedy Senagi, platform innovators

Pictorial



On 11 March 2025 Dr Kevit Desai and Mr. André Varma from Company-Building-as-a-Service (Cbaas), paid a visit to BioInnovate Africa and discussed the landscape for a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa.



On 25 February 2025, BioInnovate Africa hosted master's students and teaching staff from The Philipp University of Marburg, Germany, specialising in economic geography and sustainable development. They gained insights into how BioInnovate Africa is fostering sustainability transformations across Africa.

Catch up on the spotlight stories



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