



e-newsletter

Building Africa's Bioeconomy Together

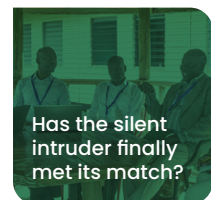
BiInnovate Africa is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and managed by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) in Nairobi, Kenya



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Has the silent intruder finally met its match?



Women in science fostering a bioeconomy in East Africa



Harnessing Nature to End Malaria in Africa



Innovations inspired by nature that tackle climate risks and create economic opportunities for youth and communities



Innovation, Sustainability, and MSMEs: Building Businesses of Tomorrow

Bioeconomy in Action: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak's visit to *icipe*

On 23 February 2026, BiInnovate Africa was honoured to host Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, Kenya. He was welcomed by *icipe* Director General, Dr Abdou Tenkouano, and accompanied by senior officials from government institutions and universities, as well as members of the Strategy Working Group of the National Bioeconomy Education and Policy Framework Development (Bio-KE) Project. The visit focused on fostering partnerships, strengthening joint platforms for bioinnovation and capacity building, and aligning education and policy pillars to inform Kenya's national bioeconomy strategy roadmap. [Read more](#)

L-R: Dr Abdou Tenkouano, Director General, *icipe* and Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research, and Innovation, Kenya.



Sida visits *icipe*/BiInnovate Africa

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Head of the Department for Global Operations, Sofia Östmark; Head of Unit for Climate and Environment, Vikström Rosvall; and Strategy Coordinator, Department for Global Operations, Teresa Rovira; accompanied by Policy Specialist, Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, Lisa Andersson, paid a visit to BiInnovate Africa on 20 April 2026, at *icipe* Duduville

Campus in Nairobi, where the initiative is based and managed. The visiting team met with *icipe* senior management and familiarised themselves with the support that BiInnovate Africa gives to scientists and innovators in eastern Africa region to link biological based research ideas and technologies to business and the market. They also interacted with various research and innovation activities at the Centre.



Sida team interact with some of *icipe*'s scientific excellence, technologies, and innovation that were showcased during their visit.

BioInnovate Africa BioVenture fellowship

In January 2026, 10 finalists shortlisted from the inaugural BioInnovate Africa Biobased Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp (BIEB) 2025, organised through the BioVenture Hub, were notified of their selection to join the Hub under a specialised BioVenture fellowship. Through this BioVenture fellowship, the selected fellows will receive structured follow-on technical and financial support for up to 12 months. The fellowship

provides tailored virtual and/or in-person technical advisory and business development services, small grant funding per project to test business models, and access to BioInnovate Africa's network of strategic partners. The fellowship is designed to strengthen, validate, and advance the fellows' packaged investable projects towards market and investor readiness.



Name: Abdel-razakh Hissein Hassan
Nationality: Chad
BioInnovation: PhytoMax Herbal Supplement
Type of Technical Support: Proof of Concept validation



Name: Baker Kansiime
Nationality: Uganda
BioInnovation: Biowater Treatment Technology
Type of Technical Support: Minimum Viable Service (Pilot testing)



Name: Abraham Erodi
Nationality: Uganda
BioInnovation: Biowater Treatment Technology
Type of Technical Support: Minimum Viable Service (Pilot testing)



Name: Jonas Bayuo
Nationality: Ghana
BioInnovation: Activated Carbon Reactor
Type of Technical Support: Techno-economic analysis



Name: Mercy Mmari
Nationality: Tanzania
BioInnovation: Nutri Yummy BioEats
Type of Technical Support: Minimal Viable Product validation and testing

Selected fellows of BioInnovate Africa BioVenture



Name: Marthe Niyibigira
Nationality: Rwanda
BioInnovation: EntoPreserve: Chitosan-based preservative
Type of Technical Support: Techno-economic analysis



Name: Daniel Wondimu
Nationality: Ethiopia
BioInnovation: HerbGuard: A Safer Solution for Fried Foods
Type of Technical Support: Proof of Concept validation



Name: Judith Herman Temu
Nationality: Tanzania
BioInnovation: Seaweed-based bioplastics
Type of Technical Support: Minimum Viable Product validation



Name: Tsion Amsalu Fode
Nationality: Ethiopia
BioInnovation: Novel treatment of sisal fibre degradation
Type of Technical Support: Minimum Viable Product validation and market testing

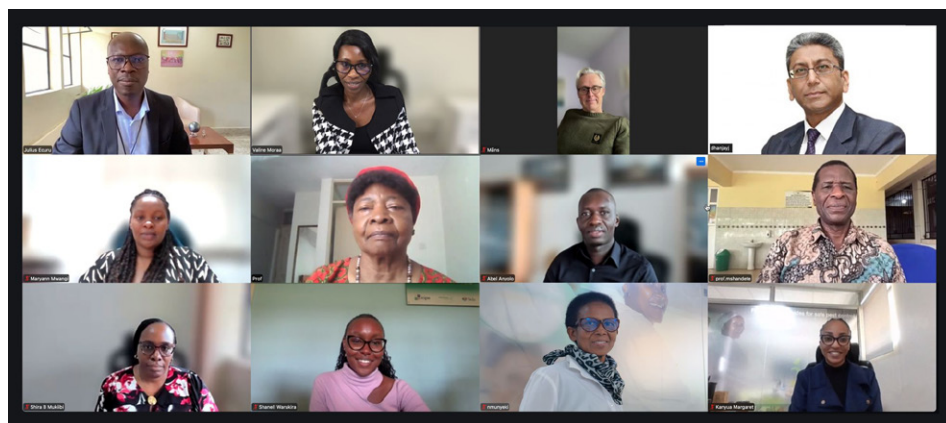


Name: Margareth Lupembe
Nationality: Tanzania
BioInnovation: GreenGel for modern farming
Type of Technical Support: Proof of Concept validation

Twenty-fourth BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting

The 24th BioInnovate Africa Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held virtually on 11 March 2026. At the meeting, the PAC members reviewed the implementation progress of supported innovation projects and shared insights to strengthen

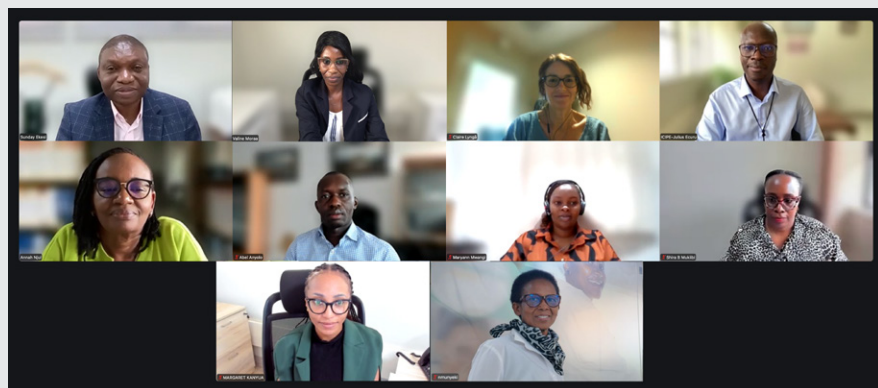
support for upscaling the developed biobased products to the market. They also discussed strategic priorities for supporting wider networking opportunities, policy and stakeholder engagement and partnerships in fostering bioeconomy development in Africa.



A fifth cohort of women fellows selected

In May 2026, a total of 10 fellows were selected for the fifth cohort of the BioInnovate Africa Fellowship for Women Scientists. The fellowship will run from August to December 2026. This, combined with the previous four cohorts, brings the total number of fellows to 55 since its inception in 2018. The fellows will be placed within ongoing regional innovation projects for a period of 3 months at implementing institutions located outside their home countries. The fellowship aims to strengthen the technical and innovation capacity of women scientists while expanding their professional networks through structured placements in BioInnovate Africa-supported regional collaborative projects in eastern Africa.

BioInnovate Africa annual review meeting



On 14 April 2026, 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.

Pictorial



18 February 2026: Sarah Ndonye, a Ph.D. graduate and specialist in research communication, knowledge management, and knowledge translation, presented findings from her doctoral research to the *icipe* fraternity, titled “Strengthening Communication and Knowledge Systems for Agricultural Innovation Networks in Eastern Africa: Evidence from the BioInnovate Africa Programme.” Using BioInnovate Africa as a case study, her presentation highlighted communicative interactions, key enablers of effective communication and knowledge management processes, the interactive dimensions shaping knowledge exchange, and practical recommendations for strengthening innovation systems in eastern Africa.

Pictorial



On 18 March 2026: Dr Debisi Araba, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063, visited *icipe*/BioInnovate Africa for discussions on promoting research excellence, policy engagement and capacity development in Africa. He is pictured with *icipe* colleagues (L–R): Dr Thomas Dubois, Director Impact Delivery; Dr Evelyn Nguku, Head, Integrated Capacity Building Platform; Dr Tobias Landmann, Interim Head, Integrated Data and Analytics Platform (IDAP); and Dr Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa.



18 – 22 May 2026: BioInnovate Africa participated in Kenya's inaugural Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Society (STRI4Society) Week, held under the theme, *"Igniting Innovation: Bridging Science and Society for Sustainable Development"*. The event was organised by the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation (SDSRI) in collaboration with its partners. [Read more](#)



23 June 2026: BioInnovate Africa participated in a high-level 'Tree Powered Bioeconomies in Africa Exchange' event, organised by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Dr Julius Ecuru served as a panelist and highlighted BioInnovate Africa as a regional, innovation-driven bioeconomy initiative that supports scientists in translating biobased discoveries and inventions into sustainable business ventures. The event focused on building an investable and resilient bioeconomy that places trees, agroforestry, and forests at the heart of Africa's climate-smart growth and innovation agenda. Learn more [here](#)

Awards and Recognition

Dr Juliet Kyayesimira, the Project Leader of the BioInnovate Africa supported project on developing eco-friendly packaging products from cassava wastes and other biowastes in East Africa, made



a poster presentation on the project during Kyambogo University's 5th Edition of the Competitive Research Grants Dissemination Conference and STEAM Festival, held from 21 to 23 April 2026 under the theme, *"Demystifying Science, Technology and Innovation for Community Development."* She was recognised as the best poster presenter at the conference and was awarded a certificate and a cash prize.

Additionally, on 18 June 2026, she was invited to present at a webinar under the Plastic Reboot Project by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), which brings together a number of national projects actively working on solutions to reduce plastic pollution. During the webinar, she shared the project's key outcomes and lessons learned.

In May 2026, Dr Tesfaye Alumu, the Project Leader of the BioInnovate Africa supported project on developing biofungicides for the management of coffee wilt disease in East Africa, was recognised by Addis Ababa University, College of Natural and Computational Sciences, for his outstanding achievement as Best Innovator of the Year 2025. The recognition was awarded in acknowledgement of his contributions to innovative problem-solving, patent acquisition, scholarly publications, and leadership in several impactful research projects.





GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT 2026

Bioeconomy for socio-economic transformation and climate action

GBS2026

Secure your spot at the 5th Global Bioeconomy Summit,
hosted in Dublin, Ireland, on 20–21 October 2026.

Registration is ongoing.

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