



Towards a Continental Vision for a Resilient and Competitive African Bioeconomy

A report from the Africa Bioeconomy Workshop held in Nairobi,
Kenya (25-26 August 2026)

Acknowledgments

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The report draws on session papers by Dr Teklehaimanot Haileselassie, Institute of Biotechnology, Addis Ababa University; Yordanos Ali Hassen, Bio and Emerging Technology Institute; Dr Rael Adhiambo, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation; Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of South Africa; Dr Laurent Bocherreau, European Commission; Dr Peter Minang, Landscape Alliance; Trystan Nadasen, GrainSA/Nampo Ltd; Jonathan Dass, Giraffe Energy; Dr Diana Akullo Ogwal, AfCFTA; Dr Debisi Araba, AKADEMIYA2063; Norika Salih, FSD Africa; Indekhwa Anangwe, NatureFinance; and Thierry Latreille, IFAD/AgriPDB. It also benefited from notes taken during the workshop discussions by Iman Brema, Emily Anyango, James Ndung'u and Evalyne Ndotono. We are also grateful to all workshop participants, whose active contributions shaped the discussions and, in turn, the content of this report.

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About this report

On 25 - 26 August 2026, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)/BioInnovate Africa, in collaboration with the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), AKADEMIYA2063, and the Stockholm Environment Institute – Africa Centre (SEI-Africa), hosted a high-level regional workshop titled, “Towards a shared vision for enhancing resilience and competitiveness of the African bioeconomy,” in Nairobi, Kenya.

Over two days, the workshop convened 150 experts from Eastern Africa and other regions of Africa and abroad to share regional experiences and initiate dialogue on a shared continental vision for enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of the African bioeconomy. Through a series of panels, fireside chats, and interactive breakout sessions, the workshop aimed to:

- Discuss the state of bioeconomy development in Africa, focusing on sustainable industrialization, business and investment opportunities, financing, and the foundational role of traditional knowledge.
- Discuss lessons learnt, challenges, and opportunities emerging from implementing dedicated regional and national bioeconomy strategies or frameworks.
- Contribute to a longer-term process toward an African bioeconomy vision and strategy.

Representing 14 countries*, leading experts and practitioners from government, private sector, civil society, and academia sought to advance a shared understanding of bioeconomy development across Africa, to contribute to a broader African narrative on bioeconomy and opportunities for investment and international cooperation. The workshop also provided an opportunity for two key related moments: the Launch of the Kenya National Bioeconomy Strategy¹ (see Box 2 below) and the launch of the State of the Bioeconomy in East Africa Report 2026: Sustainable Industrialization in East Africa² (see Box 1 below).

This report presents a summary of the discussion at the Africa Bioeconomy Workshop and aims to be a contribution from experts towards a continental vision. This report is also intended as a conversation starter at three levels: for countries, it offers a basis for developing national bioeconomy policies that consolidate their bio-based industries. For the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), it shows how East Africa’s regional approach could be adapted in other regions to connect national efforts and give enterprises access to larger markets through regional integration. And at the continental level, it aims to inform discussions on a shared African bioeconomy vision and, in time, a continental strategy.

* Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

Executive summary

Africa has a significant opportunity to transform its abundant biological resources, agricultural potential and indigenous knowledge into sustainable economic and social value. A bioeconomy – the sustainable production and use of biological resources, supported by science, technology and innovation – can help accelerate green industrialization, diversify economies, create decent and attractive employment opportunities, strengthen food and energy security, and build resilience to climate change. As global demand for renewable materials, bio-based products and sustainable production systems grows, Africa must position itself not only as a supplier of biological resources, but also as a competitive producer of higher-value products, technologies and services.

Growing momentum, but an industrialization gap remains

Bioeconomy development in Africa is well underway: national and regional strategies are in place or in preparation, and research and innovation ecosystems are rapidly expanding across the continent. South Africa adopted its national strategy in 2014, followed by Namibia and Ethiopia in 2024. The East African Community's (EAC) Regional Bioeconomy Strategy 2022–2032 anchors action at the regional level, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) plans to begin preparing its own regional strategy in 2027. At the national level, Kenya launched its National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026–2036 at the Nairobi workshop in August 2026, while Uganda and Rwanda plan to develop theirs.

These developments demonstrate growing political recognition of the bioeconomy's potential. Nevertheless, significant gaps remain between policy ambition, scientific capability and commercial implementation. The State of the Bioeconomy in Eastern Africa 2026³ report highlights progress in research, enterprise formation and demonstration projects, but finds that economic activity remains concentrated in primary production, with limited advanced processing and manufacturing. Many promising technologies fail to progress beyond proof of concept or pilot stages. Closing these two commercialization gaps – moving from research to bankable pilots, and from successful pilots to commercial scale – is essential to building competitive African bio-based industries.

Building a shared African Bioeconomy Vision

On 25–26 August 2026, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)/BioInnovate Africa, the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), AKADEMIYA2063, and the Stockholm Environment Institute – Africa Centre (SEI-Africa) convened 150 participants from 14 countries in Nairobi for a workshop titled, “Towards a Shared Vision for Enhancing Resilience and Competitiveness of the African Bioeconomy.” Bringing together government, private sector, academia, and civil society, the workshop explored investment opportunities, financing constraints, lessons from existing national and regional bioeconomy strategies, and the role of traditional knowledge in shaping an African approach.

A central message of the workshop was that a successful African bioeconomy requires distributed leadership, with different responsibilities at national, regional, and continental levels, building on existing national and regional initiatives instead of a parallel policy architecture, while avoiding duplication of existing institutions and strategies. Specifically, the following set of recommendations emerged from the workshop:

National level: Build the foundations

National governments are responsible for creating enabling conditions for bioeconomy development.

1. **Develop national bioeconomy strategies** aligned with national development and industrialization priorities and with national commitments to UN conventions. Strategies should protect biodiversity and traditional knowledge, establish effective access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, and identify priority sectors and value chains based on national comparative advantages.
2. **Put SMEs and African entrepreneurs at the center of the bioeconomy.** An SME- and entrepreneurship-led approach should create interconnected value chains open to farmers, cooperatives, processors, manufacturers, and technology firms. While SMEs can often be the entry point, the aim is for the most successful enterprises to grow into competitive bio-based industries, linked to anchor processors, regional processing hubs, and larger markets. Public investment should bridge the gap between research and commercialization through grants, concessional finance, incubation, technology transfer, demonstration facilities, and market-access support.
3. **Invest in research, technical skills, and innovation infrastructure**, including biotechnology infrastructure and university–industry partnerships, paired with stronger national standards, testing, certification, and quality infrastructure.

Regional Economic Communities: Connect and scale

RECs focus on areas where regional cooperation creates greater value than national action, acting as the bridge between national capabilities and continental markets.

4. **Develop regional bioeconomy value chains supported by regional centers of excellence and shared research and testing infrastructure, including bioeconomy clusters**, promoting regional specialization and complementary capabilities over identical national value chains.
5. **Harmonize standards, regulations and certification requirements for bio-based products**, working in tandem with AfCFTA, through mutual recognition arrangements, easier customs procedures, appropriate rules for biological materials, and stronger consumer, health, and environmental safeguards.
6. **Hold a Biannual African Bioeconomy Summit, rotating among the RECs**, to convene governments, business, researchers, investors, and civil society, review progress against agreed continental priorities and indicators, and share lessons across regions.

Continental level: Coordinate, enable and represent Africa

The African Union provides overarching strategic direction and embeds the bioeconomy across existing continental agendas. Several AUC departments are well-positioned to lead and coordinate, including the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI); Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy (ARBE); and Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Minerals (ETTİM).

7. **Develop a shared African Bioeconomy Vision and implementation framework as a basis for a continental Bioeconomy Strategy**, founded on biodiversity conservation, sustainability, inclusion, and circularity, and aligned with Agenda 2063, AfCFTA, STISA-2034, and the Kampala CAADP Declaration.
8. **Use AfCFTA to support an integrated continental market for bio-based products** by harmonizing standards, certification, and regulatory requirements, facilitating cross-border movement of biological feedstocks and intermediate products, improving investment frameworks, and identifying regional production and processing hubs.
9. **Represent African interests in global bioeconomy negotiations, markets and partnerships** through common positions prepared through the African Union and the RECs on metrics, sustainability criteria, market access, and trade rules, and through partnerships based on jointly set research agendas, technology co-development, and fair benefit sharing.
10. **Adapt African IP systems to the needs of an African bioeconomy**, resting on community ownership, environmental stewardship and fair and transparent benefit sharing, so that communities, farmers, and knowledge holders are partners and beneficiaries in value creation.
11. **Develop a continental monitoring, learning and knowledge-sharing system** that goes beyond biological-resource production to measure value addition, manufacturing, enterprise development, investment, employment, innovation, trade, and environmental outcomes.

1. The case for an African Bioeconomy

Bioeconomy refers to the production, use, conservation and regeneration of biological resources to provide sustainable solutions (including information, products, processes and services) in and across all economic sectors.⁴ A growing focus on global grand challenges – such as the urgent need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-based products, conserving biodiversity, and meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – is driving the global demand for new, innovative, and sustainable (renewable) products. A bioeconomy offers Africa a transformative opportunity to convert its abundant biological resources into sustainable economic and social value, while addressing pressing challenges around food security, climate change, and job creation. The case for a coordinated African response has, therefore, never been stronger.

Africa's biological wealth provides a significant foundation for new sources of growth. Developing bio-based value chains through innovation and manufacturing can enable countries to capture greater value from their biological resources – creating new industries and strengthening economic diversification. Opportunities include biomanufacturing of bio-based materials, pharmaceuticals, biofertilizers, food and other value-added agricultural products and bioenergy. Bio-based innovation can also reduce waste and make better use of agricultural residues and other biological resources to produce high-value products. Furthermore, responsible use of Africa's biodiversity and natural capital can create economic incentives for conservation and sustainable resource management.

The opportunity is particularly significant for employment creation and entrepreneurship: around 11 million young people enter Africa's labor market each year, while only about 3.7 million jobs are currently created.⁵ The challenge is not simply to create more jobs, but to create more productive, higher-value jobs and enterprises that can raise incomes and strengthen economic transformation. With the bioeconomy spanning agriculture, food processing, health, energy, research, and services, it offers significant opportunities to create productive employment across both rural and urban economies.

These value chains can generate employment across the spectrum – from farmers, technicians and laboratory staff to engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, manufacturers and highly skilled professionals. Rather than wait for these emerging capabilities to mature independently, strategic investment in R&D and associated infrastructure, skills, and facilitating technology transfer through sound intellectual property management, more efficient regulatory systems, and early-stage finance can help close the gap between scientific discovery, inventions and commercialization. Building these industries can also strengthen the role of African entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators in emerging global markets.

The bioeconomy opportunity for Africa extends beyond national boundaries. The development of regional bioeconomy value chains can strengthen intra-African trade by enabling countries to specialize in different stages of the value chain – from the production of biomass and agricultural feedstocks to processing, manufacturing, and distribution. The

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) provides an important platform for scaling these markets, reducing trade barriers, and connecting producers and consumers across the continent; moreover, the bioeconomy can be an opportunity to facilitate further integration among African countries. Beyond Africa too, as global interest in bio-based solutions, bio-based trade, and investment accelerate, so do opportunities to position African businesses within emerging international value chains. Africa's biodiversity and agricultural resources provide a distinctive comparative asset, while investment in research, standards, certification, processing capacity, and intellectual property (IP) can enable countries to meet international market requirements.

The political and economic opportunity is therefore in building a stronger integrated African market for bio-based products while positioning Africa as a competitive supplier of higher-value products to rapidly expanding global bioeconomy markets. Coordinated investment in research and development, skills, infrastructure, enabling policies, finance and innovation ecosystems will be critical to translating Africa's biological assets into scalable businesses and sustainable economic growth.

The imperative is clear: Africa's biodiversity and biological wealth should be positioned as a strategic asset for sustainable development, economic resilience, and global competitiveness. Domestically, protecting and sustainably using biodiversity can support jobs, food and health security, innovation, climate resilience, and rural development. Abroad, it is an avenue to strengthen Africa's position in global environmental and economic negotiations and participation.

Key moment at African Bioeconomy Workshop

Launch of The State of the Bioeconomy in Eastern Africa 2026

The State of the Bioeconomy in Eastern Africa 2026 presents a bioeconomy that is gaining significant momentum but remains at an early and uneven stage of industrial development. Compared with the 2022 baseline, the region has made clear progress in policy development, research and innovation, enterprise formation, demonstration projects, and sustainable bioenergy. However, the report's overall assessment is that Eastern Africa has not yet translated its considerable biological-resource base and growing innovation capacity into a mature, competitive industrial bioeconomy at scale.

The report makes an important distinction between having abundant biological resources and having an industrial bioeconomy. Eastern Africa has major advantages: biodiversity, agricultural production, agricultural residues, organic waste, expanding markets, and a young entrepreneurial population. Yet much of the economic activity associated with biological resources remains concentrated in primary production rather than advanced processing and manufacturing. The report therefore sees substantial unrealized potential for local biomanufacturing in areas such as biodegradable packaging, industrial enzymes, bio-based construction materials, natural fibers, renewable oils, biogas, biofuels and sustainable aviation fuels. Locally adapted biorefineries could integrate agricultural crops,

residues and organic waste to produce food, feed, fertilizers, chemicals, biomaterials and energy.

The major challenge in East Africa is no longer simply identifying opportunities but converting promising technologies and pilot projects into commercially viable industries; the failure to scale innovations is one of the major weaknesses identified by the report. Bio-based enterprises face what the report calls two “valleys of death.” The first occurs when research or proof-of-concept cannot be converted into a bankable pilot. The second occurs when a successful pilot cannot obtain the finance, infrastructure, feedstock, certification, management capacity and market access required to become a competitive commercial enterprise. Limited finance, fragmented biomass supply chains, inadequate processing infrastructure, weak business-development support, regulatory complexity, and insufficient market access repeatedly prevent promising innovations from progressing.

The report, therefore, recommends shared pilot and demonstration facilities, mission-oriented innovation hubs, bioprocessing infrastructure, industrial parks, technology-transfer mechanisms, incubation and acceleration systems, and cluster-based development. Clusters can connect biomass suppliers, processors, researchers, distributors and financiers, while roadmaps can identify technical, regulatory, infrastructure, and market bottlenecks along specific value chains.

1.1. Africa’s bioeconomy momentum

Africa is building significant momentum around the bioeconomy, with countries and regional institutions increasingly putting in place dedicated strategies and enabling frameworks. South Africa pioneered national action with its 2014 Bioeconomy Strategy, followed by Namibia in June 2024. At the regional level, the East African Community launched the East Africa Regional Bioeconomy Strategy 2022–2032 – the only one yet of its kind on the continent, providing an important platform for coordinated action. Since its development, countries have begun translating this ambition into national frameworks that reflect their respective resources, institutions and development priorities: Ethiopia finalized and validated its first National Bioeconomy Strategy in December 2024 through the Bio and Emerging Technology Institute (BETin); Uganda and Rwanda are advancing national bioeconomy strategies, while Kenya launched its own national bioeconomy strategy at the workshop. Southern Africa is set to follow: the Southern African Development Community (SADC) plans to begin preparing its own regional bioeconomy strategy in 2027 and can draw on the East African experience as well as on member states such as South Africa and Namibia that already have national strategies in place.

Key moment at African Bioeconomy Workshop

Kenya launches a National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026-2036

Prime Cabinet Secretary, H.E. Musalia Mudavadi, unveiled Kenya’s National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026–2036⁶ at the Africa Bioeconomy Workshop on 25 August 2026. The 10-year framework is intended to position the bioeconomy as a major driver of sustainable

economic growth and industrial development and aims to transform the country's biological resources, scientific research and innovation into new industries, investment and employment opportunities.

A central ambition of Kenya's National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026–2036 is to mobilize Sh100 billion (approximately US\$ 770 million) in investment by 2036. The Strategy seeks to increase the value generated from Kenya's biological resources by moving away from the export of raw materials towards processing, manufacturing, and the development of higher-value products.

Agriculture and the use of biomass feature prominently. Kenya produces significant quantities of agricultural residues and other organic waste that could be converted into biofuels, biochemicals, bioplastics, animal feeds, fertilizers, construction materials and other commercial products. Turning waste into valuable inputs could create additional income for farmers, reduce environmental pressures, and stimulate new industries, particularly in rural areas.

The strategy also places strong emphasis on commercializing research and innovation. Kenya has a substantial research base, but limited financing, weak links between researchers and industry, inadequate infrastructure, and difficulties accessing markets have often prevented promising discoveries from becoming commercially viable products. The new framework, therefore, seeks to strengthen coordination and collaboration between universities, research institutions, businesses, investors, and government, while improving access to finance and commercialization support.

Increasing investment in research and development is another priority, with Kenya aiming to move towards spending 2% of GDP on R&D. International partnerships and private-sector investment will be important in closing the financing gap and bringing technologies to market.

Ultimately, the strategy is intended to contribute to food security, climate resilience, sustainable industrialization, and employment creation, particularly for young people.

Africa's growing role in the global bioeconomy was further underscored by the 4th Global Bioeconomy Summit, held in Nairobi in October 2024 – the first GBS hosted outside Germany since its inception. Additionally, in 2025, South Africa hosted the G20 and continued discussions on the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, focusing on financing, metrics, standards, and governance.

1.2. National bioeconomy efforts

This emerging policy landscape is underpinned by strong research and innovation ecosystems, growing regulatory capacity, and expanding entrepreneurship across Eastern and Southern Africa.

- **South Africa's** vision is anchored on the newly created and rapidly expanding green industries that generate and develop bio-based services, products, and innovations. It is established as an economic engine and as a basis for future growth. The strategy seeks to provide solutions including manufacture of high-value protein products such as biopharmaceuticals and vaccines; production of biofuels; improved crops; sustainable solutions for the management of industrial and municipal waste; a reduction of production costs and environmental impacts; quality injections for sustainable production and bio-based products; and improving the performance of a range of economic sectors. Overall, the South African policy for bioeconomy prioritizes agricultural industry and biotechnology, including drug manufacture, vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals for the health sector, and aims to help the country achieve its public health goals through local research and innovation.
- **Namibia's** Sustainable Bioeconomy Strategy (2024-2029) centers on three broad areas: agriculture, health, and natural resource management, with biotechnology and bio-based innovation positioned as tools for increasing productivity, improving health outcomes, supporting conservation, and creating higher-value products. The strategy also identifies opportunities in bioprocessing, biomanufacturing, bioenergy, biomaterials, biochemicals, biorefineries, biocatalysts, bioremediation, and bioprospecting, extending the bioeconomy beyond primary production into industrial applications. A key emphasis is moving from the sustainable use of biological resources towards domestic value addition, commercialization, and market development, supported by research, innovation, skills, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship. In doing so, the strategy seeks to strengthen linkages between Namibia's natural resource base, research and technology capabilities, and private-sector activity, while ensuring that economic development is aligned with biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.
- **Ethiopia's** approach to bioeconomy has moved from fragmented initiatives toward a formal national bioeconomy framework, focusing on integrating the new strategy with its industrial policy to capitalize on the investments in agro-industrial parks. In doing so, Ethiopia is positioning bioeconomy as both an industrial modernization and sustainability agenda. To support growing interest in bio-based start-ups and SMEs, Ethiopia aims to strengthen institutional capacity in biotechnology research and IP development. Importantly, the country is a clear demonstration of how nationalizing regional bioeconomy strategies can be grounded in an understanding of the country's existing biological-resource base, research and technological capabilities, and pathways for value addition.
- **Kenya's** experience highlighted the inherently cross-sectoral nature of the bioeconomy, requiring engagement across agriculture, forestry, fisheries, environment, science and technology, industry, energy and other biological-resource sectors. Kenya's experience also showed that strategy development is as much an institutional process as a technical one: coordination is central where responsibility for biological resources, science and technology, industrial development and environmental management is distributed across different institutions.

Despite differences in scope and national context, these strategies share common priorities and implementation approaches. They broadly seek to strengthen the enabling environment for bioeconomy development by connecting research and innovation with commercialization, supporting entrepreneurship and value creation, improving regulatory and institutional frameworks, developing skills and infrastructure, and promoting the sustainable use of biological resources. Many also emphasize the importance of stronger linkages between government, research institutions, industry, investors, and development partners. Equally, while the institutional contexts and priorities of Kenya and Ethiopia differ, their experiences converge around several considerations: high-level institutional ownership; coordination across ministries and sectors with different mandates; meaningful participation of research, industry, and other stakeholders; a clear understanding of national biological and technological capabilities; and alignment with broader national development priorities.

The growing number of national and regional bioeconomy strategies across Africa reflects more than increasing policy attention: these strategies are emerging as important instruments for prioritizing investment, coordinating implementation, and strengthening cooperation around the bioeconomy.

1.3. Regional bioeconomy efforts

National strategies remain essential because countries differ in their biological resources, productive systems, institutional arrangements, research capabilities, and economic development priorities. They allow governments to establish national priorities, clarify institutional responsibilities, and identify the policy and investment measures required in their own contexts.

Yet, ecosystems, genetic resources, water systems, agricultural landscapes, markets, research networks, and supply chains are inherently regional. One country may have significant feedstock or production capacity, another specialized research infrastructure, and another processing or manufacturing capability. Testing facilities, specialist laboratories, technology platforms, certification systems, and centers of excellence can serve several countries rather than being reproduced nationally. Regional value chains can, therefore, turn national comparative strengths into shared competitive advantage and add value where common challenges, shared capabilities or economies of scale make collective action more effective, including specialized research infrastructure, centers of excellence (or clusters), data and knowledge systems, skills, standards, regulatory cooperation and technology transfer.

In 2020, seven Eastern African countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Uganda developed a regional innovation-driven bioeconomy strategy that enables the pooling of resources to address shared regional priorities. The East African Regional Bioeconomy Strategy 2021/22-2031/32 provides a framework to harmonize and synergize bioeconomy activities in the region. In doing so, it aims to inspire and catalyze the development of national bioeconomy strategies and subsequent policy developments and interventions that can create new jobs and sustainable bio-based and inclusive economic

growth in the region. While national institutions provide strategic direction and policy coordination, the EAC framework provides a platform for knowledge exchange, policy alignment, joint research, market development, and investment across borders. The East African bioeconomy strategy is the second regional strategy in the world, following the European Union, which published its first strategy in 2012.

A regional approach can create economies of scale, stronger markets and greater collective bargaining power. Countries can coordinate standards, regulations, research priorities, infrastructure and investment, reduce fragmentation and enable African bio-based products and technologies to move more easily across borders. Regional cooperation can also support shared value chains, allowing countries to capitalize on their respective ecological and technological strengths. Regional approaches add value where common challenges, shared capabilities, or economies of scale make collective action more effective, including specialized research infrastructure, centers of excellence, data and knowledge systems, skills, standards, regulatory cooperation, and technology transfer. Yet, they focus on national strengths and competitive advantages.

Other policymakers in Africa have also discussed the value of regional bioeconomy strategies anchored on regional economic blocs. In September 2025, a West Africa Bioeconomy Workshop in Senegal advanced the dialogue on national and regional bioeconomy strategies, highlighting growing momentum across African countries to harness biological resources and connect traditional knowledge to drive sustainable economic development.

Regional institutions such as the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) can strengthen national science, technology and innovation systems by sharing lessons, connecting institutions, identifying converging priorities, and enabling collective action on research infrastructure, expertise, data systems, standards and regulation. Their role is not to replace national strategies but to ensure that national and regional processes evolve together: regional frameworks can guide national policy, while clearly defined national priorities, responsibilities and capabilities reinforce regional implementation, even as countries progress at different rates. Regional economic communities should therefore establish mechanisms that clarify what is best addressed nationally or regionally, translate strategy into coordinated action, and contribute to a shared continental vision for a resilient and competitive African bioeconomy aligned with Agenda 2063, the AfCFTA, STISA, CAADP and related initiatives.

2. A Continental Vision for a Resilient and Competitive African Bioeconomy

“Africa’s biological wealth and knowledge are the foundation of a resilient, competitive and inclusive bioeconomy, in which enterprises and communities use science and innovation to create and scale bio-based products, services and industries that drive sustainable industrialization, job creation, and economic growth, and in which Africa contributes to shaping the direction of the global bioeconomy.”

Success for an African continental bioeconomy would mean moving from a continent rich in biological resources and scientific potential to one that creates, captures and distributes greater economic and social value from those resources sustainably. The workshop concluded that an Africa Bioeconomy Vision needs to be grounded in the continent’s distinctive assets, development priorities, and institutional landscape. A continental vision - and eventually an *Africa Bioeconomy Strategy* - will give impetus to the momentum already emerging across African countries and regions, connecting existing initiatives, and translating them into a more coordinated agenda for investment, innovation and economic transformation. It would build on national strategies and regional frameworks and amplify their impact by addressing opportunities and constraints that individual countries cannot easily tackle alone.

A continental vision would articulate what an African bioeconomy should achieve, reflecting the continent's biological resources, traditional knowledge systems, research and innovation capacity, and development priorities. It would establish a common understanding of how the bioeconomy can contribute to sustainable industrialization, food and health security, employment generation, and environmental sustainability. This shared vision could help build political commitment across Member States and provide a recognizable African perspective in global bioeconomy discussions.

2.1. African science, innovation and knowledge systems

Africa’s biological resources and traditional knowledge systems provide an important foundation. The continent’s rich biodiversity, genetic resources and diverse ecosystems are closely connected to long-standing African knowledge systems – indigenous and traditional knowledge, embodying generations of knowledge about biodiversity, agriculture, food, health, natural resource management and the sustainable use of biological resources. Moreover, there is considerable potential to combine African knowledge systems with scientific research and modern technologies to develop new products, services and enterprises.

A central policy challenge is ensuring that economic value generated from Africa's biological resources and knowledge is shared equitably within Africa and abroad. Communities should derive higher value from biological resources through bio-processing, and trade. An African bioeconomy strategy should recognize indigenous knowledge systems as sources of dynamic innovation and economic value, while ensuring appropriate protection, participation and benefit-sharing for Indigenous and local communities. This includes addressing access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, intellectual property, and mechanisms through which communities can participate in value creation. As policymakers expand the development of national, regional, and continental bioeconomies, it is important to strengthen mechanisms for access and benefit sharing, including community protocols, mutually agreed terms, recognition of knowledge contributors, and appropriate arrangements for co-creation and co-ownership. These mechanisms should be practical, transparent, and capable of supporting investment while protecting the rights and interests of knowledge holders.

In achieving fair benefits for local communities, participants at the workshop agreed that local value addition and industrialization should be explicit objectives. This requires treating knowledge holders, farmers, communities and other "wisdom keepers" as active partners in value creation – not simply as sources of knowledge or raw materials. They must be embedded systematically in bioeconomy policy, research, innovation, and investment frameworks.

Finally, policymakers can help strengthen the legitimacy and wider adoption of African knowledge systems through documentation, research, scientific validation, education and evidence-based communication, while ensuring that documentation itself respects community ownership and does not facilitate misappropriation.

The policy opportunity is therefore to position African knowledge systems at the heart of the continent's bioeconomy transition. A Pan-African approach can connect knowledge protection and community rights with research, investment, markets, and industrialization, creating an enabling environment in which Africa's biological and intellectual assets generate greater economic and social value for African communities and economies.

2.2. Priority and emerging bioeconomy value chains

Africa has an opportunity to develop competitive, value-added bioeconomies that retain greater economic value on the continent. Evidence-based value chain mapping and regional coordination and specialization are important for identifying priority opportunities, reducing duplication and oversupply, and developing complementary value chains supported by shared infrastructure and larger markets, with the AfCFTA providing an important platform for connecting regional capabilities and creating the scale required for competitive African value chains. A value-chain approach would help identify where value is currently captured, where bottlenecks exist, and where targeted investment could enable greater processing, manufacturing and export value within Africa and abroad.

Priority should be given to value chains that promote higher-value processing, manufacturing, and knowledge-based services. Selection should consider market demand, resource availability, sustainability, potential for smallholder and SME participation, job creation, food and energy security, climate resilience and biodiversity benefits. Africa's key tree crops – cashew, coffee and cocoa – offer some low-hanging fruit for expansion into new value chains. However, it is important to emphasize that these constitute a small fraction of the potential of what can be developed from Africa's biodiversity. Selecting priority bioeconomy value chains must be an outcome of extensive stakeholder consultation.

Cashew:

Five of the world's top 10 raw cashew producers are African countries, with Côte d'Ivoire alone producing 40% of global output.⁷ Domestic production of raw cashew nuts in Côte d'Ivoire increased from 380,000 tons in 2010 to about 1.2 million tones in 2023, equivalent to 40% of the world's cashew supply. However, the processing capacity only stood at 345,000 tons in 2024. In other words, cashew producing countries in Africa have significant opportunities to scale up bioeconomy from existing output.

Africa's cashew sector offers significant bioeconomy opportunities by converting underutilized cashew apples, shells, testa[†], and processing residues into higher-value products.⁸ Rather than focusing only on kernel exports, an integrated "cashew biorefinery" approach could generate additional income, jobs and environmental benefits. Although highly perishable and often left unused, the cashew apple can be processed into juice, wine, jams, syrups, dried fruit and other food products.⁹ Studies found substantial potential domestic demand for cashew-apple juice in Benin, while FAO-supported initiatives have promoted juice processing as a way of reducing losses and increasing farmer income. In Ghana, a World Bank analysis concluded that untapped opportunities in cashew-apple juice and wine could potentially generate an additional income of US\$125 per ton.¹⁰

In addition, cashew shells – constituting about 70% of processing waste – contain cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL), which has applications in paints, varnishes, resins, plastics and brake/friction materials. After CNSL extraction, shell residues can potentially be used for industrial fuel, briquettes, bioenergy and biofertilizer. Examples already exist in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, including shell-to-CNSL, briquette and dried-apple enterprises. Cashew testa and apple bagasse can be developed into animal feed, bioactive compounds, antioxidants, bioethanol and other microbial products.

Coffee and Cocoa

Like cashew, coffee and cocoa generate significant amounts of waste that remain largely underutilized. About two-thirds of global cocoa bean production originates in Africa¹¹, and about 15.5% of coffee consumed around the world comes from African countries – all of

[†] The cashew testa is the thin, papery, reddish-brown skin that wraps directly around the inner cashew kernel underneath the hard outer shell

which generates vast amounts of waste. As much as 80 to 90% of cocoa is not used in chocolate making. Cocoa pod husks, pulp, mucilage and bean shells contain fibers, pectin, phenolic compounds and other potentially useful materials. Research on cocoa by-product valorization identifies opportunities spanning organic fertilizers, biofuels, chemicals, biomaterials, food ingredients and other products.^{12, 13} Similarly, coffee processing produces substantial volumes of unused pulp, husks, mucilage and other residues that can be transformed into organic fertilizers, compost, animal-feed ingredients, mushroom substrates, briquettes and biogas.

One promising starting point is cocoa pod husk compost and soil amendments. In Ghana, research on cocoa pod husk composting demonstrates the potential for integrating agricultural residues back into the production system. In addition, Ghana has experimented with cocoa by-products for food products, animal-feed additives, soaps, and other applications. Bioeconomy applications of cocoa pod husks include soap, cocoa pulp for products including pectin and beverages, and other cocoa residues for cosmetic products.¹⁴

Broadly, expanding tree-based value chains holds significant opportunities to build a sustainable bioeconomy, particularly where production is managed through regenerative and agroecological principles. The development of bioeconomy clusters could serve as regionally anchored hubs that integrate biomass production, processing, science and innovation, traditional knowledge and market access.

For additional downstream and industrial applications, the Status of Bioeconomy in East Africa (2026) report identifies five major opportunity areas: a) bio-based and biodegradable packaging materials; b) Bioprocessing enzymes; c) bio-based construction materials; d) bio-based fibers; e) renewable bio-based oils. Packaging can be manufactured from agricultural residues and other biomass, providing alternatives to petroleum-derived plastics while reducing waste and post-harvest losses. Industrial enzymes can exploit the region's microbial biodiversity, including microorganisms adapted to extreme environments. Such enzymes could replace chemical processing aids in food, textiles, leather, brewing, and pulp and paper industries, potentially reducing water, energy, and chemical use. Large-scale tree planting and reforestation programs, such as Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative¹⁵, Uganda's ROOTS program¹⁶, and national tree planting days in Kenya¹⁷, aim to restore land and increase forest cover. These initiatives can contribute to a regional bio-based construction industry. In addition, bamboo, eucalyptus, agricultural residues and engineered wood can be processed into construction products, while sisal, banana, pineapple, coconut, hemp and residues from coffee, citrus, sugarcane and cassava can provide feedstocks for textiles, regenerated cellulose, composites and leather substitutes. The report emphasizes the potential for shared fiber streams to supply both construction and textile manufacturing, increasing resource efficiency and domestic value addition. Renewable oils from crops and underutilized oil-bearing trees are also identified as high-value feedstocks for lubricants, solvents, surfactants, coatings, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, polymers, biodiesel and sustainable aviation fuel.

Beyond these examples, bio-based technologies offer significant opportunities across other food value chains. In production, they include crop varieties that are more tolerant of drought, use water more efficiently, resist pests and other biotic and abiotic stresses, and offer improved nutrition, as well as soil inputs such as biofertilizers and biopesticides. In processing, they include new methods that improve food safety, quality, and nutritional value. Further opportunities lie beyond food systems. Bio-based solutions can support wastewater treatment, and they have a significant role to play in health and pharmaceuticals, one of the fastest-growing bioeconomy sectors. Applications there range from safer, standardized, and more effective herbal medicines to vaccines and precision therapies. Identifying a promising value chain, however, is only the starting point. Countries need to build the enabling ecosystem and regulatory environment required for success, particularly for SMEs.

2.3. Enterprises and the path to scale

SMEs and startups can play an important role in translating knowledge and biological resources into commercially viable products. Ultimately, Africa needs to move from biomass to value by developing the knowledge, technologies, skills, enterprises, infrastructure and markets required to create jobs, strengthen food and energy security, support rural economies and capture greater value from the continent's biological resources.

An African bioeconomy can be particularly conducive to SMEs because it allows businesses to build value around locally available biological resources, knowledge and technologies, rather than requiring the enormous capital investments associated with many conventional industries. Rather than relying on large-scale capital-intensive production, many bioeconomy activities can be developed around collection, processing, logistics, manufacturing, recycling, distribution, and specialized services, as well as in research-intensive activities. This creates space for enterprises with very different levels of capital, skills, and technological capability, and participation is not restricted to entrepreneurs with access to significant capital or advanced scientific capabilities. A farmer cooperative, a waste-processing business, a food processor, a laboratory start-up, a financial institution, standards body, and a logistics company can all form part of the same bioeconomy value chain. The opportunity is to establish value chains in which large numbers of entrepreneurs and SMEs can participate. SMEs also have the flexibility to operate closer to their sources of raw materials. Decentralized processing can reduce transport costs, retain more value in rural areas, and generate local employment.

The aim is not to concentrate the bioeconomy in a few large companies, but to help enterprises grow and address the challenge of the “missing middle”: with most enterprises micro or small and many of them informal, few grow into medium-sized firms that offer stable, better-paid jobs. Experience elsewhere shows that specialization and growth are compatible. In many economies, the backbone is a large base of specialized, medium-sized firms, many of them leaders in niche markets. For Africa's bioeconomy, this means supporting SMEs to become more productive and competitive, enabling those with the potential to grow into medium-sized and, where viable, larger enterprises, and connecting them through networks

and clusters instead of replacing them. Some activities, such as biorefineries and biomanufacturing, only become viable at a certain size. When they do, they can create markets for many smaller suppliers and service providers. Competition policy, cooperative and out-grower models, and fair access to finance and markets can help ensure that growth widens opportunity instead of concentrating it.

The collective contribution of thousands of locally embedded businesses can be substantial when they are supported by appropriate finance, infrastructure, technology, skills and markets. This makes the bioeconomy particularly relevant to an inclusive development model in which economic activity, innovation, and value creation are distributed more widely across communities and regions.

Ultimately, Africa's bioeconomy must ensure that more entrepreneurs can start viable businesses, whether businesses can operate competitively, whether farmers and communities capture more value from biological resources, and whether economic opportunities become more widely distributed. The opportunity is to build a bioeconomy in which entrepreneurship/industry, research, and the public sector reinforce one another.

At the same time, biobased businesses, especially SMEs cannot scale without appropriate financial support and an enabling regulatory ecosystem. Enterprises face two “valleys of death”: moving from research and proof-of-concept to a technically validated, bankable pilot; and moving from a successful pilot to commercial-scale production. The first requires technical validation, viable business models, market analysis, incubation, and appropriate early-stage finance. Technology partnerships between universities, research institutions, and industry are important in addressing these. Shared laboratories, pilot plants, testing facilities, technology-transfer platforms, and regional incubators can reduce the cost and risk of moving innovations from research into commercial products. The second requires production infrastructure, reliable feedstock supply, quality certification, working capital, management capacity, regulatory compliance, and integration into larger value chains. To meet these requirements, support to navigate regional markets, certification requirements, and cross-border regulations is vital. The greatest opportunity may therefore be to use regional and continental markets as the pathway to scale. Harmonized standards, AfCFTA-enabled market access, regional procurement programs and stronger market links can allow successful local innovations to expand across borders.

2.4. Finance

Despite growing policy ambition, investment in the African bioeconomy remains low, and concentrated in relatively few sectors. Many innovative ideas fail to progress beyond the pilot stage; enterprises struggle to access finance for commercialization and scale-up; and limited value addition leaves Africa holding potentially beneficial biological resources that it has yet to turn to its advantage. In many cases, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and traditional knowledge remain undervalued and underfinanced.

Financing Africa's bioeconomy will require coordinated action across governments, finance institutions, commercial financiers, institutional investors, philanthropic organizations, enterprise-support organizations, and community-based actors. The objective is not simply to mobilize more capital, but to ensure that the right capital reaches the right opportunities at the right time, enabling Africa to move from resource extraction towards value creation, competitive enterprises, and sustainable bioeconomy industries. As such, financing mechanisms must be viewed as part of a broader competitiveness agenda aimed at building investment-ready enterprises, competitive industries, and integrated regional value chains. Notably, commercial banks, SME lenders, and cooperative financial institutions are likely to provide most of the enterprise financing across many bioeconomy value chains and must be considered central actors within the bioeconomy financing ecosystem.

Across many African countries, investors frequently report a shortage of investment-ready opportunities – pipeline – rather than a shortage of available capital. Entrepreneurs face challenges in accessing demonstration facilities, commercialization support, and business development services. Enterprises operate within fragmented value chains, unreliable feedstock systems, and underdeveloped markets. These constraints reduce the attractiveness of investments regardless of the financing available.

The challenge is particularly visible in the so-called "missing middle." Many enterprises can access grants during research and early innovation stages but struggle to secure the financing needed for piloting, commercial validation, and scale-up. As a result, potentially transformative innovations become stranded between laboratories and markets. This challenge is especially acute in bioeconomy sectors that require specialized infrastructure, longer development timelines, and substantial upfront investment.

At the same time, many bioeconomy businesses face constraints related to productivity, standards compliance, certification, quality assurance, traceability, logistics, and market access. Without addressing these issues, access to finance is unlikely to generate sustainable business growth. Supporting businesses to meet domestic, regional, and international standards can help improve market access, increase investor confidence, and strengthen participation in global value chains.

A third constraint sits between investable enterprises and available capital: the capacity and incentives of the financial institutions expected to intermediate it. Africa's banks, insurers, pension funds and capital markets hold the continent's largest pools of domestic capital, yet relatively few have the investment policies, risk frameworks, data or internal expertise required to appraise bioeconomy opportunities. Nature-related risks and dependencies are rarely reflected in credit assessments, prudential frameworks, investment policies, or supervisory guidance. Until the financial sector itself is equipped to recognize, assess and price biological assets and nature-related risks and opportunities, pipeline development alone will not translate into capital flows.

Addressing these challenges requires moving beyond a narrow focus on financing instruments. It requires the development of financing ecosystems that support enterprises throughout their growth journey. Such ecosystems must facilitate technology transfer, commercialization, project preparation, investment readiness, market access and industrial development.

Within this landscape, public development banks occupy a distinctive position. Whether supporting agriculture, SMEs or emerging bioeconomy activities, PDBs are generally mandated by governments to address financing gaps where private financial institutions are unable or unwilling to provide finance on appropriate terms. Depending on their business models and access to government, concessional or development-partner resources, PDBs can translate public priorities into several forms of support. These include subsidized or concessional credit lines with terms adapted to bioeconomy enterprises; guarantee funds and risk-sharing facilities that encourage lending by commercial financial institutions; and technical assistance that strengthens clients' business models, financial management, technological readiness and investment preparation. Although technical assistance is not strictly a financial instrument, it is often necessary to make bioeconomy enterprises and projects financeable. They can, therefore, connect public-policy priorities with enterprises and projects that would otherwise remain underserved. Their effectiveness, however, depends on adequate institutional capacity, capitalization, and regulatory arrangements that allow them to pursue their development mandate while maintaining financial sustainability.

Financing must be considered across the full innovation and commercialization pathway. Bioeconomy activities often require significant investment before they become commercially viable, creating challenges for ventures that fall between public research funding and conventional commercial finance. A financing strategy for the bioeconomy should therefore consider mechanisms spanning research and proof of concept to demonstration, scale-up and market expansion. Blended finance, development finance, guarantees, challenge funds, venture capital and other risk-sharing instruments could help mobilize private investment, particularly in emerging value chains and technologies. Emerging initiatives such as the Nature Finance Innovation Lab (NFIL) and the Africa Bioeconomy Finance Hub are examples of efforts designed to address these challenges by strengthening commercialization pathways, developing investment-ready pipelines and connecting bioeconomy enterprises with sources of catalytic and commercial capital.

Different forms of public, private, philanthropic, development, and nature-based finance will be required at different stages of the bioeconomy development continuum. The choice of financing mechanism should be guided by the maturity of the opportunity being financed, the level of investment risk, anticipated social and environmental outcomes, and the capacity of enterprises and institutions to absorb and manage capital.

Bioeconomy enterprises need different types of support as they move from research and proof of concept to piloting, commercialization, and scale, and they face different risks at each stage. For example:

- **Dedicated national bioeconomy financing windows or bioeconomy funds** can provide strategic support for research, innovation, commercialization, enterprise development and industrial infrastructure. Such mechanisms can help align public investments with national bioeconomy priorities while supporting long-term strategic sectors that may not immediately attract commercial finance.
- **Innovation challenge funds and competitive grant programs** can further support the development and commercialization of early-stage technologies by providing catalytic resources for proof-of-concept development, piloting, and technological validation.
- **Public purchasing of bio-based products**, ecosystem restoration services, and circular bioeconomy solutions can create early markets that encourage investment, innovation, and enterprise growth.
- **Blended finance mechanisms** such as first-loss capital can absorb a portion of potential investment losses, improving the risk-return profile for commercial investors. Concessional finance can provide longer repayment periods or reduced interest rates for investments with significant environmental and social benefits. Credit guarantees and risk-sharing facilities can encourage financial institutions to lend to enterprises that would otherwise be considered too risky. Existing models operating in Africa provide useful lessons. The strategic question for Africa is whether existing blended-finance mechanisms can be expanded to support bioeconomy sectors or whether the continent should pursue dedicated bioeconomy-focused financing facilities and platforms.
- **Enterprise finance mechanisms** such as venture capital can support innovation-driven and technology-intensive bioeconomy enterprises with high growth potential. Growth-equity investments can help established enterprises scale operations, expand processing capacity and access new markets. Revenue-based financing may offer a useful alternative where enterprises require flexible repayment arrangements linked to business performance. Working-capital facilities are particularly important for bioeconomy sectors characterized by seasonal production cycles, inventory requirements and longer commercialization periods. Special attention should be given to women-led, youth-led and community-based enterprises, which often face additional financing barriers despite playing important roles in local bioeconomy development.
- **Capital markets mechanisms** such as debt capital markets remain an underused channel for bioeconomy finance, despite being among the few instruments already operating at scale in Africa. Sovereign, sub-sovereign and corporate green, blue and sustainability bonds can finance ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and bio-based infrastructure at volumes that enterprise-level instruments cannot reach. Sustainability-linked instruments, which tie pricing to measurable environmental performance, offer an additional route for larger bioeconomy corporates. Debt-for-nature conversions have demonstrated that

sovereign liability management can be linked directly to conservation and marine protection commitments. Capital markets are also the channel through which domestic institutional capital, including pension funds, insurers and sovereign asset managers realistically enter the bioeconomy. Realizing this potential is primarily a question of issuance capability rather than capital availability. Technical support to sovereign and corporate issuers should therefore be recognized as a financing mechanism in its own right, rather than treated as an ancillary activity.

- **Nature and Biodiversity Finance Mechanisms** are among the emerging nature-finance mechanisms that present opportunities to mobilize investment while supporting conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biological resources. Biodiversity credits are attracting increasing global attention as a mechanism for generating financial incentives linked to biodiversity conservation outcomes. While the market remains relatively immature, early pilot initiatives across Africa suggest potential opportunities for future development. Similarly, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes can generate financial returns for activities that protect watersheds, forests, and other critical ecosystems. Restoration finance linked to regenerative agriculture, landscape restoration, and ecosystem rehabilitation is also becoming an important component of the bioeconomy financing landscape.
- **Natural-capital investment vehicles**, including conservation finance funds, biodiversity investment facilities, and nature-based enterprise funds, may provide additional opportunities for mobilizing long-term capital while supporting environmental and social outcomes. Nature-finance mechanisms should be understood not only as conservation tools, but also as investments in the productive asset base of the bioeconomy itself. However, all such mechanisms must be accompanied by robust safeguards to ensure equitable benefit sharing, protection of traditional knowledge, community participation, and local value capture. African partners should seek to play an active role in designing and coordinating projects and negotiating equitable partnerships. Cooperation should move beyond a model in which African institutions simply provide research capacity or biological resources. Technology transfer and investment should be based on co-investment and mutually beneficial “win-win” partnerships, with greater opportunities for African manufacturing, entrepreneurship and value creation.

2.5. Integrated African markets

Regionally and continentally integrated value chains can be a major driver of Africa’s bioeconomy. Integrated markets can increase the scale and predictability of demand for bio-based products, making investments in biorefineries, biomanufacturing facilities, processing infrastructure and shared research facilities more commercially viable. Regional aggregation of projects can also help create investment pipelines that are more attractive to development finance institutions and private investors than fragmented, country-specific initiatives.

The AfCFTA provides an important foundation for developing integrated regional value chains and expanding intra-African markets. Innovation alone does not create a bioeconomy –

markets do. If markets for bio-based products are not developed within Africa, value addition, capital, and IP may continue to leave local communities. Intra-African harmonization is therefore critical. Common standards and protocols can allow products developed in one African country to be recognized and traded in another, with the AfCFTA potentially playing a catalytic role. The opportunity is to shift from exporting biomass to capturing value from extraction to transformation and to build interconnected African value chains that retain greater economic, technological, and social value on the continent.

The greatest opportunities will arise where countries have complementary resources, capabilities, and markets, rather than each country attempting to develop an entire value chain independently. One country may provide the biological resource, another may have manufacturing/processing capacity, while another provides specialized technology, logistics or access to large consumer markets. This creates the opportunity for the establishment of African value chains that capture greater value within the continent. Agriculture and agro-processing provide a clear example, but similar opportunities exist across biomass and bioenergy, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, natural products, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and bio-based chemicals. RECs and the AfCFTA provide important platforms for connecting these capabilities, but this will require cooperation, harmonized standards, certification, trade regulations and investment frameworks, together with improved transport, energy and digital infrastructure. Africa needs to move from an export-of-raw-materials model towards regional processing and manufacturing. Governments should identify where countries can specialize within larger regional value chains and coordinate investment accordingly. This could create economies of scale that individual countries cannot achieve alone, while ensuring that farmers, SMEs and local communities remain integrated into the value chain and capture a meaningful share of the value created.

2.6. Global partnerships

The European Union's (EU) experience provides a useful reference for considering how bioeconomy priorities can be translated into policy, research and innovation, investment, markets and international partnerships. In November 2025, the EU published an updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy as *"A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy"*. The strategy defines the bioeconomy as activities that deliver sustainable solutions based on biological resources to create added value. It covers agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as value chains based on biomass processing, biomanufacturing and biotechnology, with applications ranging from food and health to energy, materials, ecosystem services and other industries. The Strategy is organized around four pillars:

1. Scaling up innovation and investment – from lab to deployment;
2. Developing lead markets for bio-based materials and technologies, including plastics, fibers, textiles, chemicals, fertilizers and construction materials, as well as technologies such as biorefineries and advanced fermentation;

3. Securing long-term prospects through sustainably sourced biomass, recognizing the need to balance growing demand with biodiversity, ecosystem and resource considerations; and
4. Harnessing global partnerships and opportunities, reflecting the inherently international nature of bioeconomy value chains, knowledge, technologies, and markets.

For Africa, all four pillars are potential avenues for partnership and learning, particularly pillar 4. Indeed, new opportunities for collaboration with the EU are likely to emerge as Africa's RECs develop and refine their bioeconomy strategies. An advanced bioeconomy in Africa presents important opportunities for the EU, including more resilient and diversified supply chains, new markets for bio-based products and technologies, and access to complementary research expertise and innovation. A stronger African bioeconomy could also accelerate the development of sustainable value chains, support shared global climate and biodiversity objectives, and strengthen long-term trade and investment relations. Moreover, if African countries pursue a continent-wide strategy, cooperation with the EU could focus on several practical areas:

- **Technology partnerships:** using the AU–EU FNSSA partnership and Horizon Europe to connect complementary African and European capabilities in biotechnology, biomanufacturing, biomass utilization, soil health, blue bioeconomy and circularity.
- **Common platforms:** connecting African institutions to international networks and developing stronger links between existing African initiatives. For example, the AU–EU Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) provides an important foundation for cooperation. It has supported joint African-European research and innovation on sustainable agriculture and food systems and is now evolving through the renewal of its roadmap and the development of an International Research Consortium. Emerging areas include soil health, bioeconomy and urban food systems. The experience demonstrates how existing R&I partnerships can progressively expand into a wider bioeconomy agenda.
- **Knowledge exchange and contribution:** STRONGBIONET[‡], supported through Horizon Europe, seeks to connect existing bioeconomy networks into a “network of networks”, strengthening knowledge exchange, capacity, investment readiness and science-policy dialogue. This approach could be particularly relevant for Africa, where numerous national, regional and sectoral initiatives already exist. The objective could be to connect these initiatives rather than duplicate them.
- **Knowledge and data:** cooperation on biomass mapping, statistics, technology assessment, markets and sustainability indicators. The European Commission Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy[§], managed by the Joint Research Centre, brings together evidence, data and expertise to support bioeconomy policymaking. By working with African practitioners and policymakers, the EU could expand its coverage,

[‡] <https://strongbionet.eu>

[§] https://knowledge-for-policy.ec.europa.eu/bioeconomy_en

provide more comprehensive knowledge resources, and build a more robust Community of Practice to advance global bioeconomy development.

- **Standards and metrics:** Standards underpin a safe, sustainable and competitive bioeconomy by ensuring product quality, protecting people and the environment, improving supply-chain transparency, and enabling trade through common requirements. Global standards should be comparable, locally relevant and fair, with government and continental backing. The International Bioeconomy Forum on R&I6, especially its working group on indicators, metrics and standards⁷, allows African countries to shape standards that expand rather than restrict market access and to advance regional priorities by co-leading work on themes such as forest bioeconomy, microbiomes and biorefineries. The COP30 Bioeconomy Challenge also offers an opportunity to align global metrics, financing, markets and sustainability criteria with African realities.
- **Showcasing and building awareness:** The International Bioeconomy Forum on R&I is also developing an International Bioeconomy Solutions Library. The Library and, indeed, STRONGBIONET also provide a potential platform for showcasing Africa's efforts and successes. By identifying local bioeconomy champions, African countries can further contribute to global bioeconomy development.
- **Financing:** developing mechanisms that help move innovations from research to demonstration and commercial deployment. The European Innovation Council^{**} provides examples of instruments combining grants, accelerator support and, in some cases, equity investment. As the EU and Africa advance their bioeconomies, joint project proposals would form a strong next step to this partnership. Researchers and institutions can engage through Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation program. Relevant opportunities include research on biomass flows, biotechnology and biomanufacturing, bio-based innovation and sustainable lifestyles, blue bio-based products, and data and AI applications in food systems.

Beyond the EU, the Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) is an important international mechanism for knowledge exchange, policy learning, and widening opportunities for international collaboration. Since it was first convened in 2015, the GBS has established itself as the principal international forum on the bioeconomy. It is multistakeholder in nature, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, development partners and civil society from around the world. The International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB), jointly with the respective host country, shapes the Summit's agenda and carries its conclusions forward between Summits. Other international initiatives are either intergovernmental in membership or focused on specific themes. The GBS, by contrast, addresses the bioeconomy across sectors and stakeholder groups, which makes it the main platform for comparing regional strategies, discussing shared questions on metrics, standards, finance and trade, and bringing common priorities onto the international agenda. The Global Bioeconomy Summit, hosted by the Government of Ireland in Dublin in October 2026, and

^{**} https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en

subsequent GBS' provide opportunity for Africa to articulate its priorities and contribute to the global bioeconomy conversation.

The lessons from the EU and wider international experience are that bioeconomy strategies succeed when they start from a region's own priorities and are owned by its institutions and stakeholders. Africa's cooperation with the EU and other partners should, therefore, work as an exchange, with African science, products and policy experience informing partners as much as European technology and finance support African efforts. Policymakers on both sides should prioritize technology transfer and co-development, along with joint ventures that create jobs for young entrepreneurs in SMEs. Africa has a direct stake in the standards, markets, and vision of the global bioeconomy and should help set them.

3. Delivering the African bioeconomy vision

The bioeconomy represents a strategic investment opportunity for Africa: to convert biological wealth into economic value, create jobs, strengthen food and resource security, build climate and economic resilience, and support a more sustainable and diversified model of growth. Targeted investment in bioeconomy can accelerate the transition from research to innovation, enterprise and industrial scale, enabling Africa to capture a greater share of the value generated by the global bioeconomy.

Africa's expanding portfolio of bioeconomy strategies represents an important foundation for a more coordinated continental bioeconomy agenda. Developing an African bioeconomy requires approaches tailored to Africa's biological resources, markets, technological capabilities and development needs. At the same time, Africa's biological wealth offers the continent the opportunity to be a key player in global markets. Facilitating a "global-African bioeconomy" requires strengthening research, scientific, engineering and technical capacity, fostering public-private partnerships, and creating enabling policy and regulatory environments that support innovation and investment.

3.1. Alignment with other continental frameworks

Africa already has strong continental, regional, and national policy foundations. These include Agenda 2063, STISA-2034, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which Member States renewed for a third ten-year period through the Kampala Declaration. A continental bioeconomy vision therefore does not require a parallel policy architecture. It can add value by building upon these foundations: identifying common priorities, addressing cross-border constraints, strengthening policy coherence, and connecting national and regional initiatives.

3.1.1. Agenda 2063

A continental bioeconomy strategy must be firmly anchored in Agenda 2063, the African Union's fifty-year blueprint for structural transformation. It speaks directly to Aspiration 1's goals of modernized, productive agriculture and environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient economies, and to Aspiration 6's call to harness the creativity, energy, and innovation of Africa's youth and women. By positioning biological resources as a source of value addition, industrialization, and job creation rather than raw-material export, bioeconomy development supports Agenda 2063's ambition of an integrated, prosperous Africa driven by its own citizens.

3.1.2. Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The bioeconomy priorities would directly contribute to three of the five AfCFTA objectives seeking to (i) promote industrial development through development of regional value chains (ii) promote and attain sustainable and inclusive development, gender parity and structural transformation and (iii) enhance competitiveness of African economies and support economic transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). To bring these objectives to

fruition, the AfCFTA Secretariat established an inclusive private sector engagement strategy that identifies four priority value chains to advance intra-Africa trade. They include agro-processing, automotive, pharmaceuticals, and transportation and logistics. The selection of the value chains is based on the high potential they have in meeting the rising demand for content and the existing production capabilities within Africa. A bioeconomy strategy should seamlessly interface with the objectives of Africa's economic integration enshrined in the AfCFTA Agreement and its implementation instruments.

3.1.3. Kampala CAADP Declaration

The recently adopted Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa, which entered into force on 1 January 2026 and guides the next ten-year cycle of CAADP implementation (2026–2035), offers a further point of convergence for a continental bioeconomy strategy. Although bioeconomy is not explicitly named in the Declaration, its six commitment areas – intensifying sustainable food production and agro-industrialization, boosting investment and financing, ensuring food and nutrition security, advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods, building resilient agrifood systems, and strengthening agrifood systems governance – embed bioeconomy principles throughout.¹⁸ Value addition to agricultural biomass, sustainable intensification, climate-resilient production, and the safeguarding of indigenous knowledge are central to both agendas. As AU Member States begin domesticating the Kampala CAADP Declaration, a continental bioeconomy strategy can operationalize these commitments by translating them into investable regional value chains, financing instruments, and governance arrangements. The RECs remain a logical entry point for this work, following the example of the EAC's regional bioeconomy strategy, to link national CAADP investment plans to bioeconomy priorities.

3.1.4. STISA-2034

The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), the AU's ten-year continental framework on science, technology and innovation (STI), provides the innovation backbone that a continental bioeconomy strategy would need to draw on. The current edition, STISA-2034, succeeded the original STISA-2024 in 2025 and is built around five priority sectors – Agriculture, Health, ICT, Energy, and Environment – several of which map directly onto bioeconomy value chains, from biotechnology-enabled agriculture and biofortification to biopharmaceuticals and biodiversity-based innovation. STISA-2034's strategic priorities on accelerating sustainable and inclusive industrialization and on building African capabilities in frontier and emerging technologies offer a ready-made institutional platform for the research and development, technology transfer, and skills components that bioeconomy strategies require. Linking bioeconomy priorities explicitly to STISA-2034's implementation mechanisms would help ensure that continental science and innovation investments are channeled towards bio-based solutions, rather than treating bioeconomy and STI agendas as parallel tracks.

The Kampala CAADP Declaration, Agenda 2063, STISA-2034, and the AfCFTA give a continental bioeconomy strategy most of the architecture it needs. Bioeconomy priorities can be built into

the implementation plans, financing arrangements, and monitoring systems these frameworks already use. Under CAADP, for example, bioeconomy investments could be included in NASIPs, and progress could be reported through the Biennial Review, which already brings Member States' results before Heads of State every two years.

4. Recommendations

A successful African bioeconomy requires distributed leadership, with different responsibilities at national, regional and continental levels. The emphasis should be on building on existing national and regional initiatives rather than establishing a parallel policy architecture.

4.1. National level: Build the foundations

National governments should be responsible for creating the enabling conditions for bioeconomy development. Priorities should include:

- **Develop national bioeconomy strategies aligned with national development and industrialization priorities, as well as national commitments to UN conventions.** It is important for national strategies to protect biodiversity and traditional knowledge and establish effective access and benefit-sharing mechanisms. In addition, the strategy ought to identify priority bioeconomy sectors and value chains based on national comparative advantages.
- **Put SMEs at the center of the bioeconomy.** A potentially transformative intervention for countries would be to develop mechanisms and platforms that connect actors such as farmers, cooperatives, waste enterprises, processors, laboratories, manufacturers, logistics providers and technology firms – to facilitate integrated value chains. In addition, public investment should help bridge the gap between research and commercialization through grants, concessional finance, incubation, technology transfer, demonstration facilities, and market-access support.
- **Invest in technical skills and innovation infrastructure.** Africa's scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial capabilities are expanding rapidly. Increasing investment in R&D, skills, technology transfer, and fostering university–industry partnerships could allow African countries to move more rapidly from research to commercially viable products and businesses. By pairing these investments with stronger and agile, forward-looking national standards and regulations, and testing, certification, and quality infrastructure, Africa can build a competitive bioeconomy nationally and internationally.

4.2. Regional Economic Communities: Connect and scale

RECs should focus on areas where regional cooperation creates greater value than national action. RECs should act as the bridge between national capabilities and continental markets, identifying opportunities where countries can specialise and collaborate rather than compete to build identical value chains. Their priorities should include:

- **develop regional bioeconomy value chains** supported by regional centres of excellence and shared research and testing infrastructure, including bioeconomy clusters. Rather than encouraging every country to develop complete value chains independently, RECs ought to promote regional specialization and complementary capabilities. Countries should be encouraged to combine their respective strengths in

biomass production, processing, manufacturing, research, technology, logistics and markets.

- **Harmonize standards, regulations and certification requirements for bio-based products.** Working in tandem with AfCFTA, should be used to reduce regulatory fragmentation and enable bio-based products – including biological feedstocks, intermediate products, technologies and services – to move more easily across borders. Developing mutual recognition arrangements, facilitating customs procedures, establishing appropriate rules for biological materials and strengthening consumer, health and environmental safeguards are all important steps to facilitating smoother trade in bioproducts around the continent.
- **A Bi-Annual African Bioeconomy Summit**, rotating among the RECs, would convene governments, business, researchers, investors, and civil society around a common African bioeconomy agenda. It would also provide a regular platform to maintain political and stakeholder momentum, review progress in implementing the African bioeconomy agenda, share experiences and lessons across regions, and identify and address emerging opportunities, risks and policy challenges. It should include a structured progress review against agreed continental priorities and indicators, alongside discussions on emerging technologies, markets, financing opportunities, regulatory developments, and cross-border value chains. Rotating the gathering across RECs would strengthen regional ownership, expose participants to different bioeconomy models and opportunities, and ensure that the continental agenda remains responsive to the diverse biological resources, economic structures and development priorities of Africa.

4.3. Continental level: Coordinate, enable and represent Africa

The African Union should provide the overarching strategic direction and ensure that bioeconomy development is embedded across existing continental agendas as they are domesticated and implemented. In this effort, the AU ought to position the bioeconomy as a cross-cutting pillar of Africa's economic transformation, industrialization, science and technology, agricultural development and environmental sustainability agendas.

The bioeconomy cuts across the mandates of several AU Commission departments, and the choice of a lead department is for the AU to make. The Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) brings its role in research, technology development and innovation, and in linking research institutions, innovators and industry; the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) is responsible for sustainable biological resource management, biodiversity conservation and agricultural value chains; and the Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTIM) contributes its work on industrial development, investment mobilization, enterprise growth and intra-African trade through the AfCFTA. Whichever department takes the lead, close collaboration among all three will be essential to develop an African Bioeconomy Strategy and implementation framework, coordinate continental knowledge sharing and monitoring, and embed bioeconomy priorities within existing

continental frameworks. Existing AU ministerial and technical coordination mechanisms can provide political oversight and accountability while avoiding unnecessary institutional duplication. Therefore, at the continental level, it is recommended to:

- **Leverage the shared African Bioeconomy Vision as a basis for a Continental Bioeconomy Strategy and implementation framework.** Such a Vision would position the bioeconomy as a cross-cutting pillar of Agenda 2063, industrialization, science and technology, agriculture, trade, climate and environmental sustainability. Founded upon biodiversity conservation, sustainability, inclusion, and circularity as core principles, it would establish common continental priorities and implementation principles. Indeed, it should be explicitly aligned with Agenda 2063, AfCFTA, STISA-2034, and the Kampala CAADP Declaration, ensuring that bioeconomy priorities are incorporated into existing continental planning, financing, and implementation mechanisms.
- **Leverage AfCFTA to support an integrated continental market for bio-based products.** Trade is a major pathway for bioeconomy scale-up. This should include harmonizing standards, certification and regulatory requirements for bio-based products; facilitating cross-border movement of biological feedstocks and intermediate products; improving investment frameworks; and identifying regional production and processing hubs. Regulatory cooperation should reduce barriers to cross-border trade while maintaining appropriate safeguards for health, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and consumer protection.
- **Represent African interests in global bioeconomy negotiations, markets and partnerships.** Sustainability criteria, metrics, standards, and trade requirements for the global bioeconomy are currently being shaped in fora such as the Global Bioeconomy Summit, the IACGB, the International Bioeconomy Forum, the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, and the COP30 Bioeconomy Challenge. African countries are more likely to influence the outcomes if they arrive with common positions, prepared through the African Union and the RECs and backed by African evidence. Priorities include metrics and sustainability criteria that reflect African production systems, fair market access for African bio-based products, including recognition of African standards and certification, and trade rules that reward processing on the continent over the export of raw biomass. Partnerships with the EU and other regions should rest on jointly set research agendas, technology co-development, and fair benefit sharing, and South–South cooperation with regions such as Latin America deserves equal attention. COP32 in Addis Ababa in November 2027 offers an opportunity to present African bioeconomy priorities on home ground.
- **Adapt African IP systems to the needs of an African bioeconomy.** Existing systems give traditional knowledge some protection, but it varies between jurisdictions and is weakened by limited enforcement, documentation, institutional capacity, and community awareness. Conventional IP law also fits poorly with knowledge that is collectively held, passed down orally across generations, and governed by customary rules. Even where the law recognizes such knowledge, communities often do not control its commercial use or receive a fair share of the benefits. Updated systems

should recognize community-owned knowledge and develop practical mechanisms to ensure fair and transparent benefit sharing when such knowledge is commercialised. IP protection should be aligned with biodiversity, access and benefit-sharing, and bioeconomy policies, so that communities, farmers, and knowledge holders are partners and beneficiaries in value creation as well as suppliers of resources and knowledge.

- **Develop a continental monitoring, learning and knowledge-sharing system.** Monitoring should go beyond biological-resource production to measure value addition, manufacturing, enterprise development, investment, employment, innovation, trade and environmental outcomes. As the EAC implements its regional bioeconomy policy, it is also monitoring and measuring the impact. This existing approach could offer a starting point for scaling across the continent. A continental monitoring system would allow countries and the AUC to identify gaps, track progress, compare experiences, and guide investment towards the most promising interventions.

5. Next steps and the way forward

African scientists, innovators, and entrepreneurs are already turning biological resources into biofertilizers, biopesticides, novel feeds, bio-based materials, and health products, building on leading research institutions and on generations of indigenous and local knowledge. The priority now is to translate these assets into investment-ready enterprises, integrated value chains, and scalable industries. Success will depend on coordinated leadership, patient and appropriately structured finance, stronger regional markets, and meaningful participation by African businesses and communities. This participation should extend to amplifying African bioeconomy voices in international fora like the GBS, biodiversity and climate COPs, and other convenings. These international cooperation efforts are crucial for connecting the African bioeconomy to the global bioeconomy and vice versa.

Brazil's COP30 in Belém in November 2025 helped elevate the bioeconomy within the global climate agenda, connecting biological resources with decarbonization, biodiversity, livelihoods, and sustainable economic development. Brazil built on momentum from its G20 presidency, which advanced high-level bioeconomy principles, and used COP30 to strengthen international collaboration and promote practical tools for addressing gaps in financing, market development, metrics, and impact measurement. A key lesson for Africa is the importance of combining political leadership, international partnerships and a practical implementation agenda. COP32 in Addis Ababa in 2027 can build on this progress while articulating a distinct African vision of the bioeconomy as a pathway to inclusive, low-carbon economic transformation. Cooperation with global partners and global initiatives will also help shape financing approaches, market frameworks and impact measures that reflect African priorities, while offering an opportunity to extend structured engagement with other regions, including Latin America, Asia and Europe for knowledge exchange, research collaboration, technology development, trade and investment.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 25 August 2026		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Coffee	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session	Opening Statement: • Dr Abdou Tenkouano, Director General, icipe
09:30 – 11:00	Moderated High Level Fireside chats	• Hon. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research & Innovation, Kenya • Hon. Dr Isata Kamanda, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security I, Sierra Leone *** • H.E. Andrea Ariik Malueth, Deputy Secretary General, East African Community (EAC) *** • H.E. Matt Baugh, British High Commissioner to Kenya *** Moderator: • Dr Eliane Ubalijoro, Director General, Landscape Alliance (CIFOR and ICRAF)
11:00 – 11:30	Group Photo & Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation and Launch of the Kenya National Bioeconomy Strategy	Hon. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research & Innovation, Kenya
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Session 1: Setting the Scene – Bioeconomy in Africa	State of the Bioeconomy in East Africa Report 2026: Sustainable Industrialization in East Africa – Dr Fortunate Muyambi, EASTECO; Niall O'Connor & Dr Alphayo Lutta, SEI Africa.
15:00 – 17:00	Session 2: National and Regional Experiences, Stocktaking, and Pathways	Station-based sharing from countries and regions on their experiences implementing national/regional bioeconomy strategies. Session convenors: Group 1: Eastern Africa

		• Dr Teklehaimanot Haileselassie & Yordanos Ali Hassen, Ethiopia • Dr Rael Adhiambo, Prof. Thomas Rewe & Roselida Owor, Kenya • Dr Fortunate Muyambi, EASTECO Group 2: Southern Africa • Prof. Anicia Peters & Paulus Mungeyi, Namibia • Dr Hlupheka Chabalala & Ben Durham (Virtual), South Africa Group 3: European Union • Dr Laurent Bochereau, European Commission
18:00 – 19:30	Cocktail Reception	
Day 2: Wednesday, 26 August 2026		
09:00 – 10:30	Session 3: Traditional Knowledge as an Integral Part of the African Bioeconomy	Moderated panel discussion on indigenous and local knowledge systems, benefit-sharing (including biodiversity credits), ethics, and convergence with modern science. Panellists: • Ginette Karirekinyana, Karire Products Ltd, Burundi • Dr Hlupheka Chabala, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa • Joseph Nguthiru, Hyapak, Kenya • Dr Raquel Matavele Chisumba, Center for Research and Development in Ethnobotany, Mozambique • Dr Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT, Nairobi, Kenya • Moderator: Dr Katrin Glatzel, AKADEMIYA2063
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Session 4: African Bioeconomy Value Chains I	Participants break into three groups; Each group selects a representative for plenary report-back: • Group 1 – Critical and emerging bioeconomy value chains (incl. role of SMEs): Dr Peter Minang, Landscape

		Alliance; Trystan Nadasen, GrainSA / Nampo Ltd; Jonathan Dass, Giraffe Energy • Group 2 – Synergizing bioeconomy within existing continental frameworks (CAADP, STISA, AfCFTA): Dr Diana Akullo Ogwai, AfCFTA; Dr Debisi Araba, AKADEMIYA2063 • Group 3 – Financing mechanisms for the bioeconomy in Africa: Norika Salih, FSD Africa; Indekhwa Anangwe, Nature Finance; Dr Martin Fregene, AfDB; Thierry Latreille, IFAD/AgriPDB
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Session 4: African Bioeconomy Value Chains II	Report back and discussion from Session 4 • Group leads / rapporteurs
15:00 – 16:00	Session 5: Moving towards an African Bioeconomy Vision	Moderated panel conversation: • Dr Sylvance Okoth, Executive Secretary, EASTECO. • Dr Valter Nuno Nuaila, Director, National Center for Biotechnology and Biosciences (CNBB), Mozambique. • Dr Rosalida Owuor, Director of Research, Science and Technology, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs, Kenya • Dr Rose Omari, Chief Research Scientist and the Deputy Director Science and Technology Policy Institute and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-STEPRI), Ghana. • Moderator: Dr Debisi Araba, AKADEMIYA2063
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Session 6: Final Reflections and Closing Statement	<i>icipe</i>/ BioInnovate Africa; EASTECO; SEI Africa; AKADEMIYA2063
16:30	END	

Annex 2: Workshop Expert Participants

Abdou Tenkouano	icipe
Abel Anyolo	icipe
Abel Biguezoton	icipe
Adekhela Mulindi	Citizen TV
Albert Ruhakana	HFC Ltd
Alemu Tesfaye	Kaffabio PLC, Ethiopia
Alphayo Lutta	Stockholm Environment Institute
Anicia Peters	National Council of Scientific Research and Technology
Annah Njui	icipe
Anthony Mshandete	The Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology
Ayub Thiaka	Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bertha Shifeta	IACGB Youth Champion
Bintu Ndusha	Universite Evangelique en Afrique
Bonface Nyagah	icipe
Brian Mungei	Invigence
Brian Mwashii	icipe
Bruhan Makong	Capital FM
Carol Kirigo	Pillar Audio
Caroline Nyanoti	British High Commission Kenya
Cathrine Ziyomo	Hekhani Seeds
Cathy Kamau	Independent Consultant
Charity Waeni Mutisya	Stockholm Environment Institute Africa
Charles Otieno Opiyo	Novo Nordisk Foundation
Christabel Adhiambo	The Star Newspaper
Chrysantus M. Tanga	icipe
Claire Anulisa	Landscape Alliance
Cody Danet	Biomass Resource Group
Colin Sykes	British High Commission Kenya
Cynthia Atuo Otindo	People Daily Newspaper
Cynthia Orang'O	icipe
Cyrus M Kimilu	icipe
Daniel Willy Kyalo	African Agricultural Technology Foundation
David Karanja	Citizen TV
Debisi Araba	AKADEMIYA2063
Denis Otieno	Citizen TV
Diana Akullo Ogwal	AfCFTA Secretariat
Domitila Kyule	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI)
Edith Mutethya Musyoki	China Daily
Éliane Ubalijoro	CIFOR - Landscape Alliance
Elias Warumbi	Pillar Audio
Emily Anyango	icipe
Emily Kavesa	AJFAND
Emmeline Skinner	British High Commission Kenya
Esperance Munganyinka	Rwanda National Council for Science and Technology

Eunice Omollo	KTN
Evalyne Ndotono	icipe
Evans Njuguna	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
Faith Nasieku Tiampati	icipe
Fiona Napier	NatureFinance
Flexidis Mutindi Muange	icipe
Fortunate Muyambi	East African Science and Technology Commission
Frank Chidawanyika	icipe
Ginette Karirekinyana	Karire Products Ltd
Gloria Otieno	Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
H.E. Matt Baugh	British High Commission Kenya
Henry Nerious Dieto	Stockholm Environment Institute Africa
Hillary Seurey	State Department of Science, Research and Innovation
Hlupheka Chabalala	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of South Africa
Hon. Andrea Ariik Malueth	East African Community
Hon. Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak	State Department for Science, Research, and Innovation
Iman Brema	icipe
Indekhwa Anangwe	NatureFinance
Isaac Njege	icipe
Isaac Rutenberg	Landscape Alliance
Isata Kamanda	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Sierra Leone
Jackson K. Koimbori	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
James Kahindi	Pwani University
James Lelesara	icipe
James Ndung'U Mukami	icipe
Jameson Mutua	The East Africa Journal
Jonathan Dass	Giraffe Bioenergy
Joseph Ngor Akok	Ministry of East African Community Affairs
Joseph Nguthiru	Hyapak Kenya
Judith Kimiywe	AJFAND
Judith Libaisi	SNV
Judith Omumbo	Science for Africa Foundation
Julie Brown	Biomass Resource Group
Julius Ecuru	icipe
Karoli N. Njau	ENVSOL Ltd, Tanzania
Katrin Glatzel	AKADEMIYA2063
Kayode Sanni	AATF
Kelvin Omanyoo	Pillar Audio
Kenneth Mogane	British High Commission Kenya
Kenneth Rotich	State Department of Science, Research and Innovation
Latifah Mafumbi	Guavay Company Limited
Laurent Bocheureau	European Commission
Lavenda Ongere	Global Green Growth Institute

Leah Mwaura	Rockefeller Foundation
Lennox Omondi	Ecobana
Liz N'Gang'A	icipe
Margaret Kanyua	icipe
Martin Ongol	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)
Mary Njenga	Landscape Alliance
Maurice Onyango	Pillar Audio
McLean Sibanda	Bigen Global
Meera Shah	AKADEMIYA2063
Melanie Connor	International Rice Research Institute
Moses Salim	AJFAND
Mwendwa Keli	British High Commission Kenya
Nagnouma Kone	Global Green Growth Institute
Nancy Munyeki	icipe
Natalia Oloo	Global Green Growth Institute
Ndegwa Njau	Pillar Audio
Niall O'Connor	Stockholm Environment Institute Africa
Nicola Urbani	Landscape Alliance
Njoroge Mutahi	kcb bank
Norika Salih	FSD Africa
Oluropo B. Oyewole	Pan African Farmers Organization
Paulo Ochanga	Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)
Paulus Mungeyi	National Council of Scientific Research and Technology
Peace Muthoka	Africa Times Network
Peter Minang	CIFOR - Landscape Alliance
Philip Kinyua	icipe
Philip Osano	CIFOR - Landscape Alliance
Rael Adhiambo	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
Rahma Adam	World Fish
Ramadhan Nyangate	icipe
Raquel Matavele Chisumba	Center for Research and Development in Ethnobotany
Robert Karanja	BioLinx Africa
Robert Zougmore	icipe
Rose Omari	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research
Roselida Owuor	State Department of Science, Research and Innovation
Ruth Oniang'O	AJFAND
Sakina Mapenzi	icipe
Sammy Waweru	Nation Newspaper
Sarah Mubiru	Aroma Honey Toffees
Sevgan Subramanian	icipe
Shanell N Warukira	icipe
Shaphan Y. Chia	icipe
Shira B. Mukiibi	icipe
Stephen Chege	Pillar Audio

Sunday Ekesi	icipe
Sylvance Okeyo Okoth	East African Science and Technology Commission
Tatien Masharabu	East African Science and Technology Commission
Teklehaimanot Teklu	Institute of Biotechnology Addis Ababa University
Thomas Dubois	icipe
Thomas Rewe	Pwani University
Tosin Somorin	International Water Management Institute
Trystan Nadasen	GrainSA
Valine Moraa	icipe
Valter Nuaila	Ministry of Education and Culture
Victoria Kaigai	Giraffe Bioenergy
Vivian Atieno	icipe
Vivian Njoki Maina	Stockholm Environment Institute Africa
Wangari Wanjiku	icipe
Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg	Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
Warren Arinaitwe	Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
Weldon Kirui	KBC Radio
Wilberforce Wanjala	icipe
Yifru B. Tafesse	AGRA
Yordanos Ali Hassen	Bio & Emerging Technology Institute

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