



GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT 2024

One Planet – Sustainable Bioeconomy Solutions for Global Challenges

23 – 24 October 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

PRESS STATEMENT

Nairobi, Kenya, 22 October 2024: The International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) together with the East African hosting partners – the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*)/BioInnovate Africa, the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) – will hold the **fourth** Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) on **23 – 24 October 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya**. The theme for GBS2024 is '*One Planet- Sustainable Bioeconomy Solutions for Global Challenges*'.

The first GBS was organised by the Federal German Government's Bioeconomy Council and held in Berlin in 2015. The second and third GBSs were also held in Berlin, Germany in 2018 and 2020, respectively. For the first time, the GBS will be held outside Germany, in Nairobi, Kenya. GBS brings together bioeconomy experts and high-ranking representatives from politics, science, civil society, and the business sector from all hemispheres. It is a platform to discuss global bioeconomy issues in an inclusive manner.

Bioeconomy, a pathway to sustainable economic growth

The bioeconomy offers transformative opportunities for reducing dependence on fossil fuel-led growth by harnessing the potential of renewable biological resources. The bioeconomy is key to defossilisation and facilitating a sustainable socioeconomic transformation in both rural and urban communities. The bioeconomy contributes to resilient food systems through value addition, and environmentally friendly agro-processing and other farming practices that conserve biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions. Bioeconomy is providing rapid solutions to managing disease epidemics and addressing global health challenges. It is a key driver for sustainable businesses, supply chains, and job creation. More than 65 countries worldwide, including major economies such as the United States and China, as well as regional economic blocks like the European Union and the East African Community, have developed dedicated bioeconomy strategies, recognising bioeconomy as the pathway to sustainable economic growth.

What to expect from GBS2024

GBS2024 will put further emphasis on bioeconomy as a key model for sustainable transition to fossil-free economies, conservation of biodiversity, and using innovation as a driver for new economic opportunities, especially jobs for the youth. More specifically, GBS 2024 will feature four plenary sessions, 24 parallel workshops, and about 12 exhibitions showcasing the latest advances in bioeconomy research and innovation that are transforming lives in communities around the world. Several issues will be discussed, including:

a. Science and innovation fostering the bioeconomy

This will include discussions on cross sectoral topics e.g., agri-food systems, forestry, ocean/aquatic, biomanufacturing, biopharmaceuticals, biotechnology, biomaterials, and bioenergy; impacted environments, e.g., ecology, consumer products, construction, and urban design; and supporting mechanisms, e.g., policies, standards, carbon emissions measurement, certifications and digitalisation.

b. **Youth in the bioeconomy**

GBS2024 will also highlight the role of the youth in advancing the bioeconomy. Youth are the largest demographic in society. The future belongs to them, and they should be involved in shaping the direction of the global bioeconomy. Issues such as education, skills development, and entrepreneurship programs for the youth will be discussed. GBS is inclusive, providing opportunities for all genders, ages, and societal backgrounds to contribute to and benefit from its development.

c. **Global bioeconomy collaboration**

The GBS2024 will foster global cooperation for the bioeconomy. This is necessary to ensure that bioeconomy advances to benefit society as a whole. Such cooperation supports a just transition to the bioeconomy, ensures that any tradeoffs from bioeconomy advancements are carefully managed.

Notes for Editors

International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) (<https://www.iacgb.net>) is an independent think tank with the mission to promote the Global Bioeconomy as a sustainable and future looking growth pathway for the benefit of planet and people. The IACGB pulls together global bioeconomy insights and recommendations as policy guidelines following intensive discussions among its approximately 40 plus members, including youth representation.

BioInnovate Africa (<https://bioinnovate-africa.org/>) is regional science and innovation-driven bioeconomy initiative in Eastern Africa supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by *icipe* headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. BioInnovate Africa enables scientists in universities, research institutes and firms to translate biologically based ideas, technologies and inventions into practical solutions using appropriate business models.

The **International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology** (<http://www.icipe.org/>) headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, is the only research institution in Africa working primarily on insects and other arthropods. *icipe* mission is to ensure better food security, health and livelihoods, by producing world-class knowledge and then developing solutions that are environmentally friendly, accessible, affordable and easy-to-use by communities.

The **East Africa Science and Technology Commission** (<https://easteco.org/>) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC). Its aim is to coordinate and facilitate the activities of the EAC partner states and national science and technology institutions to promote the development and application of science, technology and innovation in all its aspects.

The **Stockholm Environment Institute** (<https://www.sei.org/>) is an international non-profit research and policy organisation that tackles environment and development challenges. The organisation connects science and decision-making to develop solutions for a sustainable future.

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